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1 April 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2660

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GRONDONA DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY CHANGE

PY200028 Buenos Aires GENTE in Spanish 17 Mar 83 pp 10, 11

[Article by Mariano Grondona: "A Failing Grade in Behavior: A Week of Contradictions"]

[Text] We say that a persons is upright and moral when he guides himself by moral principles, that he is wise and practical when he knows how to promote his interests, and that he is emotional when he puts his passions, feelings and moods before his moral principles and interests.

The same thing would apply for a state. The behavior of a state can be guided by principles, interests and emotions, although in most cases these motivations are intermingled. However, there are states and people whose behavior is guided exclusively by principles. India's "third world position," for example, is connected with deep historical and cultural roots, which go from Indira Ghandi back to her father Nehru, from Nehru to his teacher Mahatma Ghandi and from Mahatma Ghandi to the millenarian Hindu and Buddhist tradition. We also have states and people that stand out for putting their interests before their moral principles. States and people of this kind are not only pragmatic but Machiavellian because they believe in power and they strive for it. The states, as opposed to people, should not be emotional. An emotional person cannot control himself; so his attitude, though unworthy of praise, is understandable. A state must do away with emotions in order to adopt rational decisions. Moral principles and interests, as opposed to emotions, are "personal." A state can take into account the emotions of the people or of groups of them when making a decision, but it should do so rationally and consider them as facts.

Both moral and pragmatic behaviors are rational but emotional behavior is not. Strictly speaking, it is not a "behavior" at all. We say that a moral person or state "behaves properly" while a Machiavellian person or state "behaves badly." However, a person or state that behaves according to the changing state of its emotions is simply irrational because it is unpredictable, unstable and uncontrollable.

On comparing these different types of human and political behavior with the Argentine Government's behavior in New Delhi, we notice that while in New Delhi the Argentine Government lost or abandoned the principles it had proclaimed in 1976. When the present military regime came into existence, it put forward

the principle of defending the Western world as an excuse to the people and the world. The military regime said that defending the values and the way of life of the Western world totally justified taking over power and fighting against Marxist terrorism. As a matter of fact, this fight has been the government's main objective since 1970. However, in New Delhi, the pro-Western world and anti-Marxist government of 1976 openly established political links with the PLO ('Arafat)--which has claimed responsibility for training, supporting and organizing the Montoneros on several occasions--it completed the political alliance with Fidel Castro, the inspirer of the guerrilla actions in the 1970's, not only by praising and expressing support for him, but by changing radically the Argentine position regarding Central America. The government's official position on Central America now is that guerrilla actions in Central America stem from the injustice prevailing there, but that this same position definitely does not apply in the Argentine case. The government also aligned itself with the most anti-Western group of the nonaligned movement through sharing the group's wrongful silence on issues such as the genocide of Afghanistan.

So now we say good-bye to the belief in the West. However, one wonders if this belief was really there in 1976. We have a couple of doubts. First, one wonders that maybe something that is being abandoned with such ease had sprouted no roots at all. Second, since belonging to the West implies respect for law and certain procedures, why had no respect been evinced toward another Western characteristic: representative democracy, because there were no intentions of returning to this system soon after the terrorist emergency was over.

As to the first doubt, the conclusion is categoric: not only the belief in the West was cast aside in New Delhi, it was also confirmed that this belief had never sprouted any roots in the minds of those who had professed it. By the way, to belong to the West is not tantamount to maintaining a relationship or an alliance with the United States. It means belief in a set of values related to freedom and dignity of the human being.

Some will tell us that in exchange for casting aside this belief which was never fully shared we managed to protect an interest: the Malvinas. When the state no longer bases its behavior on any specific principle, it can still try to rationally justify its actions by arguing that they are necessary to protect certain interests. This would change our behavior from "good" to "bad," from the world of high moral standards into Machiavelli's world. And what would Machiavelli say about the New Delhi operation? He would have said that only "words" not "the thing" were obtained there. If what was wanted was the Malvinas, they were not obtained in New Delhi. Neither did we make any progress toward this goal. On the contrary, the most probable result will be that those who have the keys to the islands--the United States and the moderate anti-Thatcher opposition in Great Britain--will now view us even less trustworthy than before. The Malvinas will not be returned to us by Castro or 'Arafat but by the Western powers. The correct utilization of Machiavellian tactics would have been to work for the recovery of the islands seriously through a combination of enticements and pressures ... applied to those who were not even

present in New Delhi. Machiavellian would be the government which would be trying at this point to win the support of the UK Labor Party or the United States or to hasten Thatcher's loss of prestige, all of which could lead to the recovery of the islands. Perhaps such a government would cast aside one of its principles: giving publicity to its actions. That government would obtain something: the islands. In New Delhi all we obtained in exchange for our principles were irrelevant words. Machiavelli would have given us a failing grade in political effectiveness.

And now we get down to emotions. Unfortunately, I believe that they can explain what happened. We should not be led to believe that in India Argentina acquired a new belief: belief in the Third World. Our so-called Third World policy will be even less authentic than our belief in the Western way of life. How can we convince anyone that we share AfroAsian culture, tradition and values. The regime that attended the New Delhi summit believed 1 year ago that Reagan would bless the recovery of the Malvinas. It had sent experts to El Salvador as proof of its "belief on the West." It hoped that in exchange it would get a green light--or at least yellow, but never red--from Washington. When the light changed, surprise, indignation and disillusionment followed. Under the influence of this state of mind the regime discovered the Third World. What we have now is not convert's belief in the Third World, an idea born with the strength of a discovery. It is our belief in the West which is squirming with the pain of unexpected betrayals. More than an opening toward a new belief, our attitude is a retaliation.

Nothing good can come out of emotions that change with the circumstances. A state which is not guided by permanent principles and/or interests is not trustworthy. If Reagan and Europe cannot trust this Argentina which is turning its back on them, neither can 'Arafat, Castro and Indira Ghandi believe in this Argentina which is approaching them. None of them can count on Argentina's international behavior which, rather than being good or bad, is strictly speaking nothing at all.

CSO: 3348/273

IGLESIAS ROUCO PERCEIVES SOVIETS BEHIND ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN

PY180220 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "Chaos"]

[Excerpts] The explanation requested from the U.S. ambassador, the statement that President Reynaldo Bignone made in New Delhi about Washington's "bad taste" and Fidel Castro's "courageous defense" of Argentina's interests in the Malvinas, and the offensive that ultranationalistic sectors of the air force and other military circles have launched against Bignone (through Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe), are exclusively domestic political maneuvers. While there is an obvious relationship between part of this maneuvering and the regime that will be installed after the October elections and that will be, as expected, of an extremely populist nature, such maneuvering is driving the nation toward an international situation that is even more dangerous than the critical period which followed the Malvinas defeat. To some extent, this maneuvering is also the result of the extensive and careful undercover job that pro-Soviet powers have done in Argentina, with the support of small local leftist groups, with the objective of finally pulling the country away from the West and turning the southern cone into another stage of conflict. This undercover job is part of a strong strategic offensive that the USSR has launched against the United States in Latin America, an offensive which has intensified after Brezhnev died and after Andropov and the KGB took over in the USSR.

An analysis of the facts that we describe below reveals Argentina's official chaos and the actions by those who fish in troubled waters.

1. It may have been the group that has just grown up at the Foreign Ministry around Aguirre Lanari--with the obvious purpose of securing posts in the next administration--that suggested, to the satisfaction of high-ranking officials, that an explanation be requested from the U.S. ambassador. Either purposely or unintentionally, this initiative, which has also been sponsored by the above-mentioned nationalistic sectors of the armed forces (although probably without pro-Soviet intentions), will tend to aggravate the U.S.-Argentine diplomatic crisis. The Foreign Ministry group that sponsored this scandal was the same that sponsored Bignone's trip to New Delhi, with the help of Aguirre Lanari. The foreign minister is apparently planning to become the

the FUFEO [Popular Federalist Forces] presidential candidate, basing his electoral support like Mr Costa Mendes, on the Malvinas cause. Therefore, Aguirre Lanari would no longer reject any anti-U.S. nationalistic idea.

2. From the viewpoint of diplomacy and of the government's dignity, the noise over the distribution of the U.S. report on Cuba and subversion, which the president himself intensified in New Delhi yesterday (after the Schlaudeman explanation), is deceitful and very similar to the fuss that communist or Moscow-dependent Third World countries make around this kind of event. In fact, Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Argentina began releasing copies of the above report in Argentina and in Latin America not on Monday, as was claimed, but in January. The State Department had already submitted the text of the report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in December 1981. The Argentine Government was perfectly well aware of the report before requesting an explanation from Schlaudeman. Therefore, the last shipment of the remaining copies of the report, which was delayed because of technical reasons that would have been easy to confirm, could have been clarified by a note from the embassy in response to a discreet call from the Foreign Ministry--the usual procedure under such circumstances--since the way things developed shows or at least supports the thesis that the incident was, as Schlaudeman put it, an "unfortunate" technical mistake, in no way harmful to the nation. The public request for an explanation and the subsequent statement by Bignone have revealed that there is the intention to magnify the event and to make it appear as a serious diplomatic and even political incident. A majority of the military leadership, particularly in the navy and the air force, does not like Schlaudeman and has been waiting for Washington to replace him for a long time. Perhaps those who magnified the "affair" were just trying to attain that goal. But this is not the case of the other populist groups--most of them civilian--in the government, who may have been encouraged or "infiltrated" by the USSR or Cuba, or who may have been driven by raw ambition of bureaucratic promotion, taking into account the future populist government.

3. We should not be surprised that Bignone has had a hand in this doubtful task. Just as many other military men and civilians of the "process" Bignone is now interested in assuaging the onslaught which the populists "ultras" and the regime's elite are directing at him. Maybe he is also striving to gain a point or two--to offset past mistakes--in the eyes of the political parties which have always based their political platform on vocal "anti-yankeeism," parties which are almost sure to win the October elections. As to the elitist "ultras" it would suffice to bear in mind that the air force formally asked the military junta to relieve the president during the February crisis because of the government's alleged "inability" to handle the current socioeconomic upheaval (and also for political reasons). According to our sources the army opposed the president's dismissal fearing--justly perhaps--that an action of this kind would exacerbate the dislike of the higher ranks which is felt among lower and medium ranking officers. That is why this branch gave open support to Wehbe's economic policy, a crucial area of the cabinet which is the target of all those who want Bignone to fall. However, the offensive staged by "ultra" sectors has not faltered since, even though it may not be directed at the president all the time but at Minister Wehbe who is now, so to say, up against the wall. It would seem that the onslaught of these groups is beginning to

break apart the support which the commander in chief of the army pledged the government a few days ago. At least, this is suggested by Nicolaides' latest statement concerning the "corrections" which Wehbe's program should be subject to.

4. The pressures against the economy minister are also fueled by the recently dismissed members of the economic team. According to sources close to Government House this would be the case of Messrs Iribarne and Ducler. Iribarne has air force connections. Furthermore interests tied to explosive affairs such as Greco and Interama Parka are not absent from this malestrom of maneuvers and countermaneuvers.

5. However, military pressures against Bignone and the government do not come from air force "ultra" fronts alone.

According to our sources the cavalry's disagreement with Bignone's government has increased just as that of certain officers of the 5th Corps, although in these cases, as in many others, the displeasure does not seem to have populist roots. After the excessive and absurd commitments which the president has undertaken in New Delhi and the paltry results that he obtained (the nonaligned declaration on the Malvinas adds nothing to that of the United Nations), it is quite possible that upon his return Bignone will have to deal with new threats to his continuity or at least to the continuity of a large portion of his cabinet. In other words: the risk of a coup or a self-coup is very much present. In sum, it remains to be seen whether one of the conclusions reached in the course of a meeting which took place 2 months ago at a military unit is still applicable. According to our sources at this meeting--which was attended by four former ministers, two major generals, three brigadier generals and eight colonels--it was decided that the threat of a coup was quite remote due to the "lack of solidarity for action" which according to these officers prevailed among military units. However, the persons present at the meeting also concluded that the armed forces "would not accept a rebirth of subversion." As you know, many civilians and military men of the "process" populist or not, still believe--and we quote a high-ranking officer--that the rapprochement to Cuba and the talks with 'Arafat, in addition to the indiscriminate vocal hostility of the political parties against the "military family," could easily reopen the door for subversion in a very short time.

This is the truly chaotic situation of this drifting mindless and uncontrolled Argentina of ours.

CSO: 3348/273

RADIO STATION EXPLAINS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY

PY182249 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Station editorial]

[Text] In New Delhi President Reynaldo Bignone spelled out Argentina's position in the world. This seems to have been a cause of pride for him, so let us listen to his reflections.

Argentina is a nation that is part of the West because of its culture, traditions, religion, history and professed faith in freedom and democracy. Its participation as a full member in the nonaligned movement as well as the so-called Group of 77 does not change that fact. It is rather a question of reassuming a position in the world by participating actively at any and all international meetings in defense of its policy.

Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari has stated that we have not abandoned our ideology or rights and there is nothing that shows, despite certain statements of criticism, that any such thing has occurred. Expressions of gratitude to a certain Latin American Marxist leader does not in any way indicate that Argentina has embraced that ideology. On the contrary, our position in the West was strengthened when that same leader clearly said that there were substantial ideological differences between his country and ours.

To belong to the West does not mean that Argentina must follow the dictates of the superpower which rules the destinies of this part of the world or that it should subordinate its rights to the dictates of the satellite power. The Malvinas conflict showed the position of the two powers without any room for doubt.

To be a Western country also does not mean that its interests as a developing country cannot be reconciled with those of other nations, giving preference, however, to those of Latin America. Why? Simply because it is the industrialized nations of the West which instituted by themselves, without consulting with the rest of the West, the international political and economic regime which dominates the relations in this part of the hemisphere. This is a regime which has not helped the less developed nations; they just consider themselves as leaders, a fact which has been denounced at the United Nations by the economic commission for Latin America and at the Latin American Integration Association and by other non-Marxist nations.

Argentina is interested in restoring its sovereignty over the islands in the South Atlantic, but this clear objective is not its only activity in the international sphere. An example: Argentine nuclear development has been obstructed by nations of the West which declare that they defend the principle of nuclear nonproliferation and which, despite hindering the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, are busy developing their destructive nuclear weapons.

Argentina has taken the position of pragmatism, a position that can be ascribed not only to the famous Machiavelli but was proposed also by Henry Kissinger who, after negotiations had been opened with the Soviet Union, found and opened channels for Chinese-U.S. relations. Did it then occur to anyone to think about a 180-degree turnaround of the U.S. ideological position?

CSO: 3348/273

BRIEFS

BIGNONE LAWSUIT DISMISSED--Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM)--It was disclosed by court sources today that federal judge Martin Anzoategui today dismissed a lawsuit filed by President Gen Reynaldo Bignone, as a dignitary, against the newspaper LA VOZ of this capital because of an article entitled "The Voice of Those Without Voice" published on 31 December 1982. Anzoategui pointed out that there were no grounds for a lawsuit since, although the offending article contained insulting language, it did not manage to stain the honor of any persons or institutions. The article, which President Bignone considered slanderous, referred to the current situation of the country over which it made harsh criticisms. [Excerpt] [PY190050 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2037 GMT 16 Mar 83]

CSO: 3348/273

STUDENT PROTEST DRAWS RESPONSE FROM GOVERNMENT

Demand for Minister's Resignation

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpt] OVER 100 STUDENTS from one of the most dilapidated schools in Nassau marched to Rawson Square this morning to demand the immediate resignation of the Minister of Education, Darrell Rolle.

Hundreds of students began the march from CC Sweeting at about nine o'clock this morning and shut down Bay Street for a few minutes before trying to present a petition to the Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office.

The petition, which was reportedly signed by more than 400 students, demanded Mr Rolle's "immediate dismissal...at the next meeting of Cabinet" because of his failure to patch up the leaky school and provide basic materials.

The petition also warned that students who cannot find jobs after they leave school "will not sit idly in this country as unemployed citizens, but will take political action."

Police barricaded the entrance to the Churchill Building and wouldn't allow the students to go inside. Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling was not in office in any event.

Union Support for Students

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] THE BAHAMAS Union of teachers today declared its support for Friday's demonstration in Rawson Square by C C Sweeting Senior High School students and warned its members not to assist Ministry of Education officials in their "witch-hunt" of the protest leaders.

The union, led by former C C Sweeting principal, Leonard Archer, also called on parents to stand firm with the students, follow their lead and to visit the

Oakes Field school to see for themselves the conditions under which students are forced to struggle.

In a press statement hand-delivered by Secretary-General Haldane Chase, the union said that C C Sweeting had been especially neglected "for petty and spiteful reasons" as Mr Archer, who was transferred last year, is treated as an "arch enemy" of the Government.

"The Bahamas Union of Teachers thoroughly supports the recent action of the students of the C C Sweeting Senior High School in their brave struggle for better conditions at that institution," the union declared in its press statement.

"The BUT unreservedly congratulates the students for the bold and mature stand which they have taken in support of their own education," the union said.

It added: "This action clearly demonstrates that the students fully realize that they are the future leaders of this nation and, through action, are preparing themselves to fulfill their destiny."

March on Ministry

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 February 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Excerpts] UNDER HEAVY police escort 500 chanting C C Sweeting High School students marched from their school to the Ministry of Education today boycotting classes for the third day to protest the terrible conditions at the school.

A barricade of police officers across Collins Avenue prevented the students from returning to Bay Street after they marched through the Ministry of Education grounds twice. And one student was threatened with arrest when the students blocked Collins Avenue for a short while, refusing to turn around.

While the students demonstrated against their terrible school conditions, it was reported that members of the Bahamas Union of Teachers staged a "sick-out" today at the school showing their support to the students.

Dennis Dames, the 17-year-old student responsible for keeping the mass student body "united" as they marched through major New Providence streets, was told he "would be arrested" if any of the students attempted to return to Bay Street.

When the students reached the entrance to the Ministry on Collins Avenue, after marching through the yard a second time, they were stopped from going back onto Shirley Street by police officers. Students stood in the middle of the street as Mr Dames spoke with police officers, chanting "We shall not be moved". All vehicular traffic on Collins Avenue was blocked by the mass of students and they protested and chanted "Democracy "

Students then attempted to enter ZNS but reports to "close the gates" were issued by police officers, and after being prevented by this they turned back and stood at the top of Collins Avenue, refusing to move and still blocking traffic.

It was at this time that Mr Dames was approached by Chief Superintendent of Police, Grafton Ifill, who told Mr Dames that he was not allowed to take his group "all round Nassau." During a telephone interview with Mr Ifill after the demonstration, he said the students were prevented from going onto Bay Street because "they are students and they had no permission to demonstrate." He said the police wanted the students to return to school.

Minister's Radio Address

Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] THE Minister of Education, the Honourable Darrell Rolle, despite claims by the opposition Free National Movement to the contrary, revealed last night that the government has spent almost six million dollars in the last three years on substantial repairs on school buildings and the replacement of temporary buildings with permanent stone structures in New Providence.

AT THE SAME TIME, said the Minister, repairs and extensions were being done to school buildings in High Rock, Grand Bahama, Mangrove Cay, Central Andros, Kemp's Bay, South Andros, Rolleville and Barreterre, Exuma and Black Point, Exuma, among others.

THE Minister said that the work was so significant and effective that even The Tribune lauded the efforts, but reminded students to learn to safeguard and care for their learning environment. "If they fail, to protect this environment," said the Minister, "by showing disrespect for property or by failing to prevent destruction of that environment as far as they are able to do so, then they would not have learned and come to cherish the principal of respect for private property which is so important in any law-abiding society."

MR. ROLLE'S REMARKS came during a special address to the nation on ZNS television and radio on the demonstrations by some 200 students of the C. C. Sweeting Senior High School, which he acknowledged was experiencing significant problems of disrepair principally in the temporary class rooms located on the schools' eastern campus.

THE Minister said it was regrettable that 200 out of 1,140 students saw fit to take matters into their own hands, contrary to the established tradition. The manner of expression in particular with school children must be in accordance with the rules of the school and the laws of the land.

"THE development of C. C. Sweeting Senior High School is a matter of great priority during 1983, but this is a large project costing well over a half million dollars and includes substantial work on the eastern campus of the school and will in the end provide suitable accommodations for 1,200 pupils as well as replace the temporary buildings and effect general repairs.

IT was also noted that the on-going repair and replacement of temporary buildings was on schedule and proceeding according to available resources and some students might find this unacceptable and see the answer in further demonstrations. "If this were to happen," warned the minister, "students above the compulsory school age (of 14) would be liable to be expelled and those under that age would be otherwise disciplined.

"I have a responsibility to the majority of children in this country to ensure that their education is not interrupted and I therefore invite those children who have been boycotting their classes to return to their classes. Those who find the solutions and time tables unacceptable will not be allowed to demonstrate on school property and disturb other students."

'Politicization' Charge by PLP

Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Feb 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

IT IS CLEAR NOW that what began as an earnest demonstration by some 200 students of the C. C. Sweeting Senior High School, has been turned into a full fledged political exercise, with the Vanguard, the Free National Movement and its surrogate, The Bahamas Union of Teachers, and the Worker's Party misleading innocent school children to further their own selfish political ends. Parents must now defend and safeguard the education of their children from these power mad persons.

THE STUDENTS, who have formed themselves into a group called the Students National Action Party (SNAP), which was first led by Dennis Dames, 17 but now seems to be led by Lisa Thurston, another 17 year old, do not really understand what is at stake. They have been duped by irresponsible elements to believe that the government is insensitive to their legitimate complaints, when unmistakeable evidence has been shown to the contrary.

IT MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE for students to continue to boycott classes. They are on a collision course with futility. What are they going to do? Will they stay out of school forever? To do so, will only be to their own detriment.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, the Honourable Darrel Rolle, in an address to the nation last night revealed that a list of priorities for the replacement and repair of school buildings was drawn up

and effected by his ministry a few years ago. The work was progressing on schedule, with work already completed on the western campus of C. C. Sweeting and work is to begin in due course on the eastern campus which students seem to be particularly concerned about.

ALTHOUGH, the new leader of the students, Lisa Thurston maintains that nothing was done on the western campus of the school we have done our own research and found that work was effected to this part of the school by a local contractor, Edney A. Pickstock for the total sum of \$109,852 in 1981. Plumbing, roof repairs, electrical repairs, interior repairs and interior re-decoration were all effected. Further investigation shows that in 1980, a total sum of \$44,345 was spent between two contractors to refurbish two burnt out buildings at this school.

BATHROOM fixtures were repaired or replaced where necessary for the total sum of \$8,852; the valley and gutter over the auditorium were repaired for \$3,400; carpentry and masonry repairs were done to the sum of \$1,100; the interior of the building was painted and the ceiling and floor was also repaired for a total cost of \$39,600; doors, windows, and glass were repaired and replaced at a cost of \$19,750; replacing sign board at cost of \$150; and painting outside the main building at a cost of \$36,000. The total cost was \$109,852.

IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR that the Vanguard's youth director, Carlton Robinson, seems to have young Ms. Thurston under his sway. She was asked by a reporter from this newspaper, if she would stay out of school forever and ultimately be expelled. She said she would and Mr. Robinson interrupted to say that students could not be expelled as the "entire working class would rise up in support." Ms. Thurston also seems to have been given some assurance that the Bahamas Union of Teachers would give unqualified support as well.

RODNEY MONCUR, leader of the Worker's Party, also attempted to cash in on the student's plight but was arrested yesterday and charged with obstruction and loitering and disorderly behaviour while allegedly attempting to rally the students.

FROM the day the petition of the students was made public, we realised that others had interjected their own selfish and ridiculous demands to it.

CONSIDER ONE OF THE DEMANDS: "... entrance to the College of The Bahamas to be free for all poor, Black grassroot Bahamians." What does that have to do with conditions at C. C. Sweeting? Absolutely nothing.

ANOTHER demand asked that "scholarships be given to all deserving students." If The Bahamas Union of Teachers is

responsible for this demand they should be condemned for they are aware of the fact that \$60,000 is allocated for scholarships to the College of The Bahamas each year and that last year only 12 students qualified and the preceeding year only eight qualified.

BUT YET another demand says that "the criteria for entrance at the College of The Bahamas be more realistic." With only a total of 29 students qualifying for scholarships in two years some idiot wants the standard to be lowered. There has already been a hue and cry from the opposition that graduates from the College are not sufficiently educated and now the persons responsible for including that demand want the standards to be lowered. The Bahamian people strive for and have a right to expect excellence not mediocrity in education.

THE FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT has also jumped on the bandwagon trying to gain political mileage out of the crisis students at C. C. Sweeting are embroiled in. To date however, the FNM has given no sensible alternative suggestions to the government's plans for education and continues to spout instead empty platitudes. Janet Bostwick, who seems to be the FNM shadow Minister for Education, herself has criticised her colleagues for their lax attitudes. But she has chosen to ignore the work already done by the government.

CERTAIN executives of the Bahamas Union of Teachers have not been forthright in the comments on the situation. The union has yet to admit that it agreed entirely with the list of priorities drawn up by the government to effect repairs to the schools and to replace temporary buildings.

THE UNION, in its typically dishonest fashion, has also refused to remind students of the fact that the students themselves must exercise more care and concern for their school environment.

THE Minister of Education, we feel, did not pursue this point adequately himself during his national address last night. It was the Progressive Liberal Party government which discontinued the practice of demanding that students be responsible for the maintenance of their classrooms. Perhaps the government's discontinuing this practice is largely to blame for the careless way some school children treat school equipment.

DESPITE all this evidence which clearly shows that the government has endeavoured to provide a clean comfortable and healthy environment for school children and that even The Tribune has agreed that work was progressing on the schools, some members of The Bahamas Union of Teachers the Vanguard the Worker's Party, and the FNM seem determined to want to use innocent, school children to further their own selfish political ends.

'HERALD' Editorial

Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Feb 83 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] A group of students from the C. C. Sweeting Senior High School, calling themselves the Students National Action Party (SNAP) led by Dennis Dames, 17, marched onto Bay Street last Friday calling for improvements in the physical conditions of the school and demanding the resignation of the Minister of Education, the Hon. Darrell Rolle.

LATER THAT DAY, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education, said that plans to repair the school would be announced shortly.

BUT, on Monday of this week, members of the SNAP, believed to number about 100, again refused to attend classes.

AND ON TUESDAY MORNING, members of the SNAP marched on the Ministry of Education offices again, repeating their demands for the resignation of the Minister and

improvements in the physical conditions of their school.

BY THIS TIME, it was obvious that control of the demonstration by young Mr. Dames had been lost and Opposition elements had taken it over.

WE HAD SUSPECTED when the demonstrations began on Friday, that certain elements with the Bahamas Union of Teachers were responsible for fueling it. Our suspicions grew firmer when we saw a list of the demands supposedly made by the SNAP and students seem relatively sure that if they are suspended, the Bahamas Union of Teachers will rally to their cause.

RODNEY MONCUR, the political gad fly, and a former student of C. C. Sweeting, was arrested on Wednesday morning by the Police, and charged with obstruction and loitering. He was alleged to be attempt-

ing to rally students. It is somewhat amusing that Mr. Moncur had a hearing in the Magistrate's Court at the same time on charges of disturbing the religious services on a recent World Food Day. Mr. Moncur did not appear in court. Instead, he was down at C. C. Sweeting Senior High School.

ON WEDNESDAY, young Mr. Dames seemed genuinely interested in resolving the matter and having the students return to their classrooms. He seems, now, however, to have backed out and Ms. Lisa Thurston, 17, seems to have taken control of the students demonstration and this morning students again marched to the Ministry of Education.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS SIMPLE: will the students continue to senslessly confront the Ministry of Education on an issue that will soon be resolved? Or will they instead return to their

classrooms, having made their point effectively?

IT IS CLEAR that the Ministry of Education has endeavoured to properly maintain all public school buildings and to replace those temporary buildings where necessary.

IT would appear that the Bahamas Union of Teachers, which claims to be a responsible organization, should be forthright in their statements on the situation, which could be resolved amicably. It is, we feel, the responsibility of the union, if it is genuinely concerned with the plight of the students, to make them aware of the fact that they agreed to the ministry's programme of repair and replacement of school buildings instead of seemingly callously fanning the fires of discontent and using innocent school children for what everyone knows is the union's selfish political interest.

FNM Criticism of Government

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement today condemned Education Minister Darrell Rolle for his non-conciliatory speech on the CC Sweeting issue last night and regretted he had not apologised for the appalling conditions at the school.

The FNM said they had been hoping that the Minister would have made a more statesmanlike and conciliatory speech and expressed deep disappointment to hear "him mouth the same old excuses, the same old misrepresentation, and the same old threats for which the PLP (Progressive Liberal Party) government is now well known.

"The excuse that the Ministry of Education and government have so many schools and teacher cottages to maintain simply does not wash," stated the FNM.

"It is the responsibility of the ministry and the government," the party said, "to maintain the schools on a continuous basis so that they do not deteriorate to the terrible state of CC Sweeting today.

"This is their responsibility. This is what they undertook to do when they asked the people to elect them, when they boasted they could 'handle it,' when they said they would take the country to the New Frontier."

An FNM spokesperson said, "They have shown clearly that they cannot handle it and their New Frontier is nothing but roofless schools and nasty school toilets."

"Instead of apologizing for the condition of CC Sweeting, Mr. Rolle tried to blame 'power-hungry persons' for

putting the students up to demonstrating."

The party spokesman contended that this was a dangerous state of mind for a government, "a state of mind which will lead them to make disastrous decisions."

The FNM warned the minister and the government not to attempt to victimize the students who have demonstrated against "the appalling conditions at the school, and which the government would never tolerate in a private institution. If the government persists in using the heavy hand, they may be starting something they might not be able to finish, much less handle."

The spokesman concluded by saying that if the conditions at CC Sweeting had been found to exist in a public school under the United Bahamian Party government, "not only would the children have demonstrated, but the PLP would have brought this town to a standstill."

Teachers Union Reaction to Rolle

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpt] SAYING that Education Minister Darrell Rolle offered "absolutely no solution to the problems which exist at C C Sweeting" in his broadcast speech, the Bahamas Union of Teachers claimed C C Sweeting students were justified in their demand that he "resign forthwith."

In a hard-hitting reply to the Minister's remarks (published in full on page 5) the BUT urged parents not to sacrifice their children on the altar of political intimidation.

And they said that the "threatening speech" of the Minister--not only to the students of C C Sweeting Senior High School, but to all students who are forced to suffer under the same inhumane conditions--"has taken the country back to the days of the UBP (United Bahamian Party.)"

"Poor black children were threatened with expulsion from school for having the guts to say loudly and clearly to the nation that they have no confidence in the Minister of Education and for demanding his immediate resignation," said the BUT.

Censorship Charge

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 83 p 7

[Column "Television View" by "Monitor": "Censored ZNS News"]

[Text]

THIS WEEK'S relatively harmless protests by some 200 CC Sweeting High School students were met by a wall of khaki-clad policemen, censored news coverage on ZNS and — finally — a ministerial "address to the nation."

Even Education Minister Darrell Rolle acknowledged the dilapidated condition of CC Sweeting on his Wednesday broadcast (8pm), but we never actually heard those conditions described by ZNS reporters.

Mr Rolle appeared in prime time to promote the government's position. But ZNS newscasts gave no opportunity for others involved to express their views. Instead, the reports on CC Sweeting rigorously excluded the views of students, teachers, the school administration and parents.

Despite Mr Rolle's own concession that freedom of speech was a democratic virtue, "the manner of expression must be in accordance with the rules of the school and the laws of the land," he admonished. Those who did not behave would be liable to expulsion or otherwise disciplined. "This is a serious matter," he said.

Mr Rolle also suggested that the protests were "guided and prompted by persons with selfish political motives" and condemned those "so misguided as to destroy the lives of our innocent youth."

That was the stick. The carrot portion of Mr Rolle's statement featured the government's efforts over the past three years to repair and rebuild old schools at a cost of some \$5 million in New Providence alone.

"One should not expect miracles," he pleaded. The

repair of CC Sweeting happened to be a priority this year and was being "carefully planned" until the students saw fit to "take matters into their own hands." How dare they.

The demonstrations began last week. On Monday some students continued to boycott classes. The Monday newscast showed students hanging around the school yard, but the only comment came from the Ministry of Education which "regretted" what had taken place.

On the Tuesday newscast we had a repeat of this performance. The students marched to Bay Street, were turned away by police and then marched to the Ministry of Education and even, according to press reports, tried to enter the ZNS compound.

Of course, we did not actually see any of this on ZNS, although again there was some footage of students milling around without sound. The report dismissed the students as enjoying their day off from class.

Some teachers at the school had called in sick, ZNS reported, but again there was no comment from the teachers, the students, the school administration or the parents. In fact, this time there was no comment, from the Ministry of Education which was probably in the throes of preparing Mr Rolle's broadcast statement. ZNS also failed to mention the opposition's comments on the situation.

But why do we have to impute sinister political motives to such a long-standing and deteriorating situation? The fact is that teachers and

students found it increasingly difficult to operate at CC. Sweeting because of lack of weather-proofing, lack of running water and lack of materials.

The question should be why was the situation allowed to fester for so long? A more important question should be why were the students not allowed to demonstrate peacefully? And the most important question should be why does ZNS find it impossible to present a fair and accurate report on any matter affecting the government?

Despite this paucity of information about a major news story involving Bahamians in the Bahamas, TV-13 was able to give us full details on the so-called general election in Paraguay, which for the past 29 years has been ruled by a fascist dictator.

In fact, Paraguay (the name was consistently mispronounced by the newscasters) is perhaps best known for harbouring Josef Mengele and other notorious Nazi war criminals. But ZNS

read this story straight, as if Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner were actually engaged in a genuine election.

To cap it all off, there was only a brief mention of a far more interesting story much closer to home - the recall of the British Governor of Bermuda following a corruption scandal.

According to ZNS' often convoluted news judgment, this story was of no interest to a Bahamian audience and no details were provided.

Promise of Repairs

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] TEMPORARY repairs will be carried out "immediately" at the CC Sweeting Senior High School, where a massive boycott of classes by students ended today, Education Minister Darrell Rolle told parents and teachers Thursday night.

The Minister also said that he has asked the Ministry of Works and utilities for estimates to deal with structural problems at CC Sweeting and two other schools "as a first priority" as soon as the money is released by the Treasury.

Addressing an extraordinary meeting of the Parents-Teachers Association of the Oakes Field school, Mr Rolle said that the immediate repairs would make the buildings suitable when the major work starts at the beginning of Easter.

But he was unable to give the costs of the repairs which he said in his nationwide address over ZNS radio and television Wednesday night would cost well over half a million dollars.

Among the repairs at the school, which he also recognized as having "significant problems of disrepair," will be the reconstruction of nine masonry classrooms and the conversion of a two-storey building into general classrooms.

"We have asked the Ministry of Works and Utilities for estimates to deal with CC Sweeting, Ridgeland Park Primary and repair on the roof at COB as a first priority as soon as the money is released from the Treasury," he said.

Over 200 parents and teachers attended last night's meeting, which was first scheduled to be held in a building on the school's eastern campus, but the large turn-out forced it to be held in the auditorium on the western campus.

A large group of policemen, including senior officers, were on hand at the meeting.

Before the meeting actually began, the press and an MP were asked to leave the room by meeting chairman Henry Dean, who said that 99 per cent of the times, the press is just a propaganda machine.

His order caused a brief uproar by PTA members who demanded to know why the press should be barred. The reporters present had to take notes at the doors.

CSO: 3298/403

PLP ORGAN DESCRIBES FNM INTERNAL PLOTS, TREACHERY

Nassau THE HERALD in English 17 Feb 83 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] THE stage is set for the national convention of the Free National Movement which sources say is scheduled for May of this year and already a nightmare of treachery has been revealed and bitter and vicious plots are being hatched by those seeking various executive posts within the party.

MR. CECIL WALLACE-WHITFIELD has done all the groundwork necessary for him to secure the position of Deputy Leader of the party, virtually ensuring his seizure of the total reins of power from Mr. Kendal Isaacs.

NEVERTHELESS, an atmosphere of high tension, jealousy and bitter rivalry still pervades the relationship between the two men. One source, who was present at a recent private discussion with Mr. Isaacs and other members of the party has informed The Herald that Mr. Isaacs indicated that he will hold onto the "leadership" of the party until "Cecil has proved himself in Parliament."

THE OBSERVER SAID that Mr. Isaacs spoke in the most unflattering terms of the FNM Chairman--remarks that even The Herald can not publish. "These two fellows can't stand the best bone in each other's bodies," said the source. "They studiously avoid each other and are barely on speaking terms. It is only when they appear in the House of Assembly or on some other public platform, that they try to project some "unity."

MEANWHILE, there is a strong under current already put in motion by defeated FNM candidates to have Mr. Orville "Tiny" Turnquest dumped as party Treasurer and replaced with Desmond Edwards, husband of Kayla Edwards.

THE parties to this plot are bitter over the fact that Mr. Turnquest adopted a "tight fisted" attitude to the dispensing of party funds during election '82. Most of the candidates defeated charge that Mr. Turnquest didn't seem to trust anyone running in the Black areas and doled out just a few dollars at a time.

IT WILL BE RECALLED that The Herald published a letter sent by the FNM Chairman to Lady Margaret Symonette, wife of the late, Sir Roland Symonette, soliciting funds.

MR. TURNQUEST told Lady Symonette at that time that if she had a difficulty donating money directly to the FNM, the cheque should be made out to "Dupuch and Turnquest Client's Account" and the money would then be transferred by him into the party's account.

"IN THIS WAY," continued the FNM Treasurer, "we are able to ensure that all funds contributed to the Party do indeed go into the party's coffers, and are carefully husbanded for use in legitimate party purposes. Items such as transportation, candidates' materials, and other political supplies are all being monitored and paid for direct, at our level, in order to prevent the well-known abuse of funds by some candidates as occurred in previous elections.

WE asked at that time whether or not Mr. Turnquest was inferring that some candidates could not be trusted with money, and since Mr. Isaacs' signature was required to disburse the funds as well, did he share this view of some of the party's candidates?

ON BALANCE, though, we would not be fair to Mr. Turnquest if we did not reveal that the move by the bitter defeated candidates is being strongly opposed by FNM MPs. They maintain that Mr. Turnquest is the best man for the job as he has established contacts with "monied persons" within the community--a qualification young Mr. Edwards seems to have not yet acquired.

SOME ELEMENTS within the party have also decided to play a cruel joke on Mr. Arlington Butler, who went down in bitter defeat to the PLP's Moses Hall in West Grand Bahama. Mr. Butler is being set up to run for the position of Chairman. No other serious contender has yet surfaced, but the name of Tennyson Wells, who was defeated in Bamboo Town by the PLP's Leander Minnis, has been whispered.

"WHOEVER those fellows pick to run against 'Ali' will be able to make short work of him, unless Cecil personally in-

CSO: 3298/403

NORWAY INTERESTED IN BUSINESS DEALS

FL141655 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 13 Mar (CANA)--Norway is interested in clinching business deals with Barbados in fields ranging from agriculture to tourism, Norway's ambassador to this country, Frode Nilsen, has reported.

"Norway is looking to establish joint ventures with Barbados in the field of energy, agricultural trade, shipping, tourism, oil technology, especially offshore, and fishing," the ambassador told CANA. He made the remarks after presenting his credentials to Governor-General Sir Deighton Ward.

"My mission...is a fact-finding one--to see in what way the two countries can cooperate," he explained. "We will be willing to train people in Barbados' fishing industry. We are thinking of establishing a central school for training for the whole Caribbean."

He continued: "Norway is interested in giving Barbados assistance in developing its oil industry, by sending experts to the country.

"We would like to see an increase in trade between the two countries."

According to official figures released here Barbados imported 7.4 million dollars (1 BBDS dollar; 50 cents U.S.) worth of goods from Norway in 1981, while exporting just over \$30,000 worth.

The items Barbados imported were animal and vegetable oils and fats, while exports were mainly chemicals.

CSO: 3298/1226

TEXT OF PRICE'S BUDGET SPEECH TO HOUSE; REACTION REPORTED

4 February Address

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Feb 83 Supplement page numbers not given

[Text of speech by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance George Price to House of Representatives in Belmopan 4 February 1983]

[Text] I move the second reading of the General Revenue Appropriation Bill 1983 and present the budget for the fiscal year 1983/84.

To complete the picture of our economy at work information is presented to the House, in addition to the budget speech.

At today's sitting, four papers are laid on the table. Together with the Budget Speech they supply facts and figures.

There is the Annual Report and a Summary of Statistics 1981 with information on agricultural activities.

There is a leaflet entitled "Belize in Figures", which gives information on the economy and society.

The Belize National Accounts Statistics 1981 and the Belize External Trade Quarterly Bulletin for January, 1983, supply additional information.

BELIZE AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

During the past year Belize shared with the rest of the world a difficult time.

There was a slowing down of economic activities. Developing countries experienced increased deficits in their balance of payments for their exports and imports, which resulted in a deterioration of trade.

Protectionist barriers against exports of developing countries was in great part the cause of this deterioration.

High interest rates made difficult, if not impossible, the financing of economic projects and the servicing of external debts. This led to unemployment and to a situation made worse by the reduction of transfers of resources in economic cooperation programmes between the developing and the industrial countries.

Prices of export commodities remained low. Prices of fuel and other imports remained high, thus resulting in a trade imbalance.

Such a difficult world situation increased the need for a New International Economic Order in which the prices of commodities from developing countries

would be more in line with the prices of goods and services from industrial countries.

THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Belize's growth continued at a slow rate. Real gross domestic product grew by 2.6% in 1981. In 1982 there was little or no growth. Such was the effect of world conditions on the economy of Belize.

These adverse conditions resulted in lower prices for our major export commodities.

Other related effects were the imbalances on current account, a reduction of money and credit and less savings for investment.

Sugar

Sugar production in 1981 was 97,724 tons with a value of \$85.0 million. In 1982, it was 105,980 tons with a value of \$61.9 million. The increase in the 1982 production was 8,256 tons but the value decreased by \$23.1 million.

The estimated production in 1983 is 110,000 tons.

Molasses

Molasses produced in 1981 was approximately 32,000 tons with a value of \$3.5 million. In 1982 it was 35,100 tons with a value of \$2.5 million.

The 1982 increase in production was 3,100 tons, but there was a reduction in value of \$1 million.

The estimated production for 1983 is 36,000 tons.

Citrus

Citrus production in 1981 was 1.6 million boxes with a value of \$13.9 million. In 1982 it was 1.7 million boxes with a value of \$13.9 million.

Although production increased in 1982 by 100,000 boxes, the export earnings in that year remained the same as the previous year.

An increase is anticipated in the 1983 citrus production due to better management, better husbandry and rehabilitation measures.

Banana

Banana production in 1981 was 549,375 boxes with a value of \$4.2 million. The 1982 production was 523,693 boxes valued at \$4.5 million dollars.

There was a decrease in production by 25,682 boxes in 1982 but an increase in export earnings of \$0.3 million.

It is estimated that in 1983 there will be more production and better export prices.

Rice

In 1981 rice paddy production was a record 19.2 million pounds. In 1982 the production was 17.5 million pounds—a decrease of 1.7 million pounds.

Low world prices of rice prevented sale of Belize's rice on the Caribbean market and caused overstocking of the 1981 production. The Marketing Board experienced storage problems of the 1982 production.

Corn

The 1981 corn production was 44.7 million pounds. In 1982 it was 47

million pounds. This was an increase of 2.3 million pounds.

The Marketing Board's purchases of corn in 1981 exceeded purchases of previous years. Purchases in 1982 created both cash flow and storage problems.

R.K. Beans.

In 1981 the quantity of red kidney beans produced was 2.8 million pounds, and in 1982 the quantity produced was 3.9 million pounds. This is an increase of 1.1 million pounds. Most of it went to the home market.

Beef

The quantity of beef produced in 1981 was 2.8 million pounds. Preliminary figures for 1982 show that production was more or less the same as that produced in 1981.

Industry

Because of a general increase of cost, performance of this sector did not meet expectation. Some industries achieved an increase in production while others experienced a decrease.

The 1981 and 1982 production figures are as follows:—

<i>Industry</i>	1981	1982
Clothing Manufacture	1.2m pieces	.5m pieces
Fertilizer	4,295 tons	3,500 tons
Cigarettes	68.3m	56.0m
Nails, Roofing etc.	0.9m lbs.	0.9m lbs.
Flour	9.1m lbs.	10.9m lbs
Beer & Stout	889,000 gals.	818,295 gals.
Fish Products	1,484,000 lbs.	1,323,000 lbs.

PUBLIC FINANCE

There was a continuing lack of money to pay for expenditure in the budget and to finance development projects.

This problem, called the cash-flow problem, was caused principally by a reduction in export earnings due to lower prices for our commodities, by a reduction in the collection of revenue and by the devaluation of the Mexican peso which resulted in a substantial reduction of re-exports to Mexico.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Total imports in 1982 are estimated at \$277 million Belize dollars. Total exports are estimated at \$186 million dollars of which \$116 million were domestic exports and \$70 million re-exports.

This constitutes a trade deficit, or an imbalance, of \$81 million. The trade gap was closed, in part, by transfers of resources and by grants and loans from our economic cooperation programmes.

It was also closed, in part, by what is called "invisible exports and imports" which include cash remittances from abroad and investment in the private sector.

MONEY AND CREDIT

Preliminary figures from the Central Bank of Belize show that at the end of 1982, deposits in the commercial banks totalled \$115.4 million compared with \$105.6 million in 1981. This is about \$10 million more.

Loans totalled \$134.9 million in 1982 compared with \$108.9 million in 1981. An increase of \$26 million.

In 1981 the total money supply, that is demand deposits and money in circulation, was \$41.1 million dollars. In 1982 it was \$42.4 million dollars. This is \$1.3 million more.

In the private sector total credit amounted to \$109.3 million in 1982. In 1981 it was \$95.8 million. This is an increase of \$13.5 million dollars.

In the public sector total credit in 1982 was \$45.5 million as compared with \$43.6 million in 1981. An increase of about \$2 million.

This increase in money and credit was not enough to meet the growing demand for investment in development.

WORKING THE MIXED ECONOMY

In working the mixed economy, which is enshrined in the Manifesto for the New and Progressive Revolution, government cooperates with the private sector and encourages the private sector to do what it is best able to do.

In this context, the work of Government is directed to stabilize the economy to stimulate growth, to redistribute income by taxation, to increase income levels and jobs, to rescue where possible ailing industries, to supply some basic commodities at subsidized prices and to regulate vital activities.

INVESTMENT AND SAVINGS

Gross domestic investment in 1982 is estimated to have declined mainly because of lower private investment.

Total domestic investment would have declined even further if the public sector did not maintain a relatively high level of investment.

Gross domestic savings are estimated to have fallen because of lower public sector savings as well as lower private sector savings. This was in great part due to reduced earnings from sugar exports.

INTEREST RATES

The Central Bank of Belize has authority to fix interest rates. This function is limited by international bank rates. There is not much room for adjustment.

As a result interest rates were high, ranging from 18% to 25% for lending and from 10% to 15% for fixed deposits.

When world rates fell recently, the Central Bank fixed its rates at: 16% prime lending rates and 8%—12% for fixed deposits.

Interest rates are expected to be further reduced slightly over a long period of time.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Preliminary figures for fiscal 1981/82 show that recurrent revenue exceeded recurrent expenditure by \$13.6 million dollars, thus leaving a surplus of \$13.6 million. This surplus was allocated to finance Capital II Expenditure.

To this surplus of \$13.6 million was added local capital revenue of \$1.2 million—making a total revenue of \$14.8 million for Capital II. Expenditure in this part of the budget was \$16.2 million, which resulted in a deficit of \$1.4 million. The deficit was financed from commercial banks overdrafts and advances from the Central Bank of Belize.

PROJECTED OUT-TURN FOR 1982/83

A comparative table of figures (estimated and revised) for the financial year 1982/83 follows:

	Approved Estimates 1982/83	Revised Estimates 1982/83
Recurrent Revenue	96.5m	86.0m
Recurrent Expenditure	81.4m	75.9m
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Surplus	\$15.1m	\$10.1m
Revenue Capital II	2.9m	2.9m
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Total Revenue Part II	\$18.0m	\$13.0m
Capital II Expenditure	18.0m	13.0m
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The reduction in recurrent revenue was due mainly to shortfalls in customs duties and income tax collections.

In order to balance the budget at the end of March, 1983, reductions of Capital II expenditure was made. As a result some projects in the 1982/83 budget could not be accomplished for lack of funds. These projects are included in the 1983/84 Budget.

The cash flow problem experienced during the fiscal year 1982/83 was somewhat alleviated by the balance of payments loan of \$4.6 million U.S. currency from the United States of America through its Caribbean Basin Initiative Programme.

PROPOSALS FOR 1983/84

The 1983/84 budget proposals are designed to reduce, where possible, government expenditure, to further control inflation, to encourage investment, to increase production and to provide the climate for self-sustained growth.

The estimates for 1983/84 propose a total expenditure of \$194.6 million in three parts:

Recurrent Expenditure	\$86.3 million
Capital II Expenditure	15.3 million
Capital III Expenditure	93.0 million
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	\$194.6 million

The 194.6 million dollars are allocated as follows:

Governor-General	\$ 160,957
Legislature	305,264
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance	10,025,913
Cabinet	130,622
Pensions	5,210,175
Public Debt	6,515,598
Minister of Foreign Affairs	3,231,423
Audit	272,315
Attorney General and Minister of Education	21,620,633
Director of Public Prosecutions	101,223
Judiciary	387,262
Minister of Natural Resources	33,854,454
Minister of Local Government and Social Security	1,390,465
Minister of Defence and Home Affairs	18,059,379
General Administration	1,473,594
Minister of Energy and Communications	35,609,650
Minister of Labour, Social Services and Community Development	2,329,095
Minister of Trade and Industry	4,714,263
Minister of Works	26,450,301
Minister of Health, Housing and Cooperatives	22,674,915

Recurrent expenditure proposals in the 1983/84 budget show an increase of \$4,885,675 or 6% over the 1982/83 budget. The increase is mainly due to defence and to maintenance and improvement of existing services.

Expenditure in Capital II will be financed from an estimated surplus of \$12.4 million derived from recurrent revenue plus capital receipts estimated at \$2.9 million. This makes a total of \$15.3 million.

Capital II Estimates provide for the land reform programme, purchase of agricultural machinery, defence equipment, investment and export promotion, slum clearance, counterpart funds for approved project, infrastructure projects, community projects training and other programmes.

Expenditure in Capital III is financed by transfers of resources from our economic cooperation programmes with the United Kingdom, Canada, the European Economic Community and the United States of America. It is also financed by loans from the Caribbean Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank).

Additional financing of our development programmes should also come from other international organisations with which an independent Belize has or will have diplomatic relations.

Projects in Capital III for which funding is identified include:

- Phase II Belize City and Sewerage Project
- Toledo Rural Development
- Road Maintenance Project
- Bridges Southern Highway,
- Reconstruction—Western Highway Miles 1—15 1/2
- Rehabilitation of the Citrus Industry
- Sugar Cane Rehabilitation
- Expansion in the Banana Industry
- Toledo Roads

There are some projects in the Capital III Budget for which sources of finance have not yet been identified because international institutions and organisations would like Government priorities to be so identified.

Such major projects include:

- housing loans
- a museum
- land development authority
- seed production
- maximum security prison
- pasteurization plant
- more infrastructure for the banana industry
- food processing and packaging plant
- district electrical expansion
- new hospital for Belize City
- terminal building for Belize International Airport

The 1983/84 budget represents a total expenditure of \$194.6 million. We propose to balance it in the following manner:

Revenue from local sources	\$101.6 million
Revenue from transfer of resources under our economic development programmes	25.4 million
Loans from Caribbean Development Bank	
World Bank and others	67.6 million
Total	\$194.6 million

TAX REVENUE MEASURES

To increase local revenue to balance the budget, we propose the following tax measures which should generate about five million dollars. An increase is necessary to bring customs duties into line with the Common External Tariff and thus comply with the Treaty obligations of the Caribbean Community.

A. Increase customs duties on:

- Eggs in shell for eating from 5% to 20%
- Macaroni, Spaghetti and similar products from 25% to 30%
- Grape must from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per gallon
- Sparkling wines from \$26.00 to \$27.00 per gallon
- Other wine from \$12.00 to \$13.00 per gallon
- Denatured spirits from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per gallon
- Other from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per gallon

Brandy in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit from \$62.50 to \$67.00 per gallon
Other brandy from \$62.50 to \$67.00 per gallon
Rum in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Other rum from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Whisky in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Other whisky from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Gin in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Other gin from \$61.00 to \$66.00 per gallon
Other (Vodka cordials) liqueurs and other aromatic bitters from \$62.00 to \$67.00 per gallon
Tyres from 25% to 30%
Travelling rugs from 35% to 45%
Bed linen etc. from 35% to 45%
Motor vehicles—cars from 40% to 45%
Firearms from 10% to 70%
Rifles from 10% to 70%
Sporting ammunitions from 35% to 50%

- B. We propose to increase revenue replacement duties by increasing the percentage levied on the ad valorem basis with respect to the following:
 - (i) Aviation Spirit from 10% to 20%
 - (ii) Other motor spirits from 10% to 20% (only gasoline)
 - (iii) Wagoneers, Vans, Broncos, Blazers, pick-ups and other similar types from 0% to 15%
- C. We propose to increase postage rates, landing fees, and air licences, to bring them more in line with international rates.
- D. We propose to impose additional toll fees on the Northern Highway when it is completed.

On the assumption that only the increase of customs duties on liquors is passed on to the consumer, the effect on future imports will be an additional 75¢ per bottle or an additional 2 to 3 cents per drink. The effect of the increase of excise duty on rum will be an additional 33¢ per bottle or 1¢ per drink.

To further encourage cultural development, steps will be taken to exempt locally produced cultural shows from the payment of entertainment tax. Gramophone records produced by Belizean artists will be exempt from payment of customs duties.

In a continuing effort to lessen costs of industrial and agricultural production, there is no increase of revenue replacement duty on diesel.

There is also the proposal to reduce replacement duty on motor cars. Revenue replacement duty on motor cars was 15% on the first \$3,000, and thereafter 40% on that part in excess of \$3,000. It is proposed to reduce the 40% and levy 15% on all cars and similar types of vehicle.

On the expenditure side, the establishment of the Office of Budget and

Management will give effective control over expenditure. Continuous budgeting will be undertaken.

Allowing for world conditions, we shall do everything possible to improve the collection of revenue.

ONWARD WITH THE NEW AND PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTION

Belize is a large country with a small economy. We must enlarge the economy by *more* production, more savings, more investment. We must work more, waste less and do away with all forms of counter-production.

The World Bank gave Belize a creditable certificate of economic health. Our economic circumstances are conducive to more development. The foreign debt is about \$123 million Belize dollars. This represents a debt service charge of 1.2 per cent when related to the gross domestic product of \$300 million Belize dollars and total export earnings and non factor services \$246 million Belize dollars.

Our foreign reserve have fluctuated in the past year from about \$11.9 million to \$23.5 million Belize dollars. and now stands at about \$19 million.

The forecast of the world economic climate is not much better than it is today. Difficult conditions are likely to last for some time.

This should not discourage us but should strengthen our will to use our independence to build a new society wherein we shall end poverty and ignorance; wherein we shall create new wealth to share and endow all Belizeans with a dignified existence and a real opportunity to be part of the life and work of the free Belize.

This new budget is an instrument to fuel our economic plan of producing food for home use and the home market, to produce commodities for the export market and thus earn money to buy things which Belize does not make but which Belize needs to create a new society.

In the work we do, money is important but it is not everything. Alone, it does not bring national well-being and happiness. There is need for higher motive which leads from material treasures to the treasures of the spirit.

The Bible shows us the way:—

*"Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord
Who walks in his ways
You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you"*

(Psalm 128, 1—2)

This is no time to falter. With independence we are better able to ride the economic storm and to survive.

We thank the good people of Belize for their continuing support. We thank our friends of the international community for their cooperation in mutual protection and development.

We say to them that we shall help ourselves and thus contribute our share to the well-being of the region.

With God's help and your support,

*"We shall build houses and live to inhabit them,
plant vineyards and eat their fruit;
we shall not build for others to inhabit
nor plant for others to eat."* (Isaiah 65 ,21-22)

Opposition's Budget Speech

Belize City THE BEACON in English 19 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] BELMOPAN, FRI., 11--At its sitting today, the House of Representatives debated and passed the budget for fiscal 1983/1984 as tabled at the previous sitting by the Prime Minister. In the course of the debate, the Hon. Curl Thompson, Leader of the Opposition, gave his own budget speech in response to Prime Minister Price's budget proposals.

Mr. Thompson opened thus: "Mr. Speaker, the speech on the Budget 1983/84 delivered by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to this Honourable House last Friday was both depressing and discouraging ... a sad story in which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister admitted that Belize experienced a bad economic time last year. He tried to place the blame for that situation on the world economic situation, which we all know has been bad ... The Opposition ... admit that the bad world economic situation has contributed to the mess our economy is in, but we know for a fact that the major cause of our problems is the very way in which this Government has managed the economy."

The Opposition Leader stated that the estimates contained in the 1983/84 budget make for a worsening of the economic situation essentially due to the perennial problem of lack of funds. He said the budget was a rehash of previous budgets and that the objectives the Prime Minister stated his budget for the new financial year "sound and look good," but when "one examines the figures of the proposed budget and the way in which the monies are allocated, then one finds out ... that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister does not seriously mean what he is saying" since he "cannot attain those objectives by the methods he proposes."

Thompson elaborated on his assessment in this way: "The 1983/1984 budget calls for a total (expenditure) of 194.6 million dollars. Of that amount, the Prime Minister proposes to spend \$86.3 million, almost one-half of the day to day expenses of running the Government. He proposes to spend a mere \$15.3 million on land reform, purchase of agricultural machinery, purchase of defence equipment, investment and export promotion, slum clearance, counterpart funds for approved projects, infrastructural projects, community projects, training and other projects. There is absolutely no way in which such a small sum of money can pay for so many things. The truth is that \$15.3M can hardly pay for two good pieces of defence equipment and the Prime Minister fully well knows this.

" -- remaining \$93.0M is earmarked for some 20-odd projects including Phase II Belize City Water and Sewage Project, Toledo Rural Development Project, Road Maintenance Projects and the expansion of the Banana Industry, Housing loans, museum, Land Development Authority, seed production, maximum security prison, pasteurization plant, feed processing and packaging plant, new hospital for Belize City and terminal building for the Belize International Airport. Again it is impossible for so many things to be done with such an amount of money. And the Prime Minister knows this fully well.

"Of more importance, however, is the fact that of the total proposed expenditure of \$194.6M, only \$101.6M will come from local sources. The Prime Minister is hoping that he will raise at least \$67.6M by either begging or borrowing internationally. There is no guarantee that he will be able to raise even one-half of that \$67.6M. He admits ... there are some projects in capital budget III for which sources of finance have not yet been identified."

Mr. Thompson said the objective of the new budget should be "to get people working; however people are not working because there is no money with which to pay them. We have no money because our export commodities have not been doing well on the international market ... over the last four years we spent \$298M more on imports than what we received from our exports."

He continued, "Our first move in really coming to grips with our problems therefore is to deal with the problem of our declining revenues and our increasingly large trade deficit." He said this can be done in a number of ways and proposed that "firstly, immediate steps should be taken to diversify and develop our exports to the maximum." He said that the fact that sugar is still responsible for over 50% of our foreign exchange earnings is a reflection of "the lack of foresight of the Price Government."

The Opposition Leader said that existing industries "cry out for development," making specific reference to the fishing industry and the fact that "the price and demand of marine products remain attractive." He said development was also needed in the agro-industries, mentioning beef and livestock and honey. He advocated the forming of cooperatives and associations, with the support of Government, so that Belizeans will then be better able to obtain the needed funds to purchase the necessary marketing and management skills which will enable them to produce and export to the maximum, something which they cannot do individually.

"The Belizean economy must also be diversified with a view to reducing our reliance on imports, ... with the manufacture and marketing of local substitutes." Diversification will have two immediate benefits, Thompson said: "import bill drastically reduced ... unemployment figures drastically reduced."

Mr. Thompson found it "amazing that we are so near to Mexico, Central and South America and we do so little trade with them." He said "immediate steps should be taken to capture new markets and to make new trading partners ... With more trading partners, more sources of aid will open up." He also saw the need to "take a new look at our investment incentive policies" since obviously investors are not coming in the numbers they should. He referred

to information that investors have to pay Ministers of Government "heavy financial rewards for offering a (development) concession." Since "the better the infrastructure, the more attractive the country will become to potential investors." Mr. Thompaon said "Government must find a way of making the supply of electricity and water cheaper."

The Opposition Leader concluded his budget speech this way: "Of course, Government itself will have to see to it that the Public Service functions efficiently. Experts, professionals, and technicians must be respected and allowed to work without undue political meddling. Qualified people must be placed in positions of responsibility. Advancement in the Service must be based on merit and not political affiliation.

"These measures would have the effect of putting Belizeans back to work, encouraging investments, increasing production, and providing the climate for self-sustained growth of the economy."

Report on House Debate

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The House of Representatives on Friday, Feb 11, continued its debate on the 1983-84 budget presented by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Rt Hon George Price on Feb 4. (SEE PAGE 10 FOR BUDGET SPEECH)

Among other things the House approved the guarantee by government of a loan of US\$2 million from the Caribbean Development Bank to be used by the Development Finance Corporation for unlending to agriculture, industry and tourism (excluding loans for purchase of land existing buildings or working capital)

The House also approved guarantee of a loan of \$2.8(Bze) million for refinancing of operations by certain statutory bodies. New rates of duty, introduced as part of the budget on Feb 4 were also validated. Expenditure of the Official Charges Fund (\$1.47 million) which comes from lotteries and is used for various projects-sports (improvements to, MCC Grounds, Rogers Stadium, National Stadium), community projects, Red Cross, housing development, scouts, guides, blood donors, social assistance, medical treatment, legal aid - was also approved.

The House also approved a balance of payments loan of \$4.2(US) million under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. The agreement for continued U.K. military presence in Belize, signed on Dec. 1., 1981, was also ratified by the House.

Editorial Praise for Budget

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Rt Hon George Price, made some very interesting comments in his Budget Speech presented to the House of Representatives on Feb 4.

We are all aware that during the past year Belize shared with the rest of the world a difficult time. In fact, as the Budget Speech says, Belize had a trade deficit, or an imbalance of \$81. The trade gap was closed, in part, by what is called "invisible exports and imports" which include cash remittances from abroad and investment in the private sector.

Belize produced more sugar in 1982 than it did in 1981 yet the value decreased by \$23.1 million. We produced more citrus yet the value remained the same. Otherwise the situation was much the same or maybe slightly better.

Yet when we take all these things into consideration we still are better off than all our neighbors in terms of economic stability. For this we are grateful but most of all we should give thanks for the peace and tranquility that we have been enjoying in the midst of a region torn by bitter conflict, hunger and war.

There is no doubt then that the work of the Government is directed to stabilize the economy, to stimulate growth, to redistribute income by taxation, to increase income levels and jobs, to rescue where possible ailing industries, to supply some basic commodities at subsidized prices and to regulate vital activities.

Despite the fact that some forces have been working against these goals of government we have achieved a considerable measure of success. It is particularly pleasing to note that much of that success has come about as a result of the cooperation between Government and the Private Sector in working the mixed economy. The mixed economy is the best way to ensure the proper development of Belize and we should not fear the future if we continue to work along these lines.

And then we must remember, as the prime minister said in his Budget Speech that, "money is important but it is not everything. Alone, it does not bring national well-being and happiness. There is need for a higher motive which leads from material treasures to the treasures of the spirit."

The 194.6 million dollar budget is a good budget in difficult times. But the budget, when put into practice, will only be good if the Belizean people do their part to make it work.

RIGHT-WING STATEMENT REFLECTS INTENSE PUP DIVISION

'BEACON' Report

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] THURS., FEB. 24--Last week Tuesday, the right-wing faction of the governing People's United Party (PUP) held a private meeting at Minister of Works Fred Hunter's Trinidad Farm on the Northern Highway

One result of that meeting is a leaflet, a copy of which was sent to this newspaper. The leaflet, apparently the first of a series, is severely critical of the left-wing of the PUP (which had formed itself into the Democratic Direction) in general, and Attorney General and Minister of Education and Sports Said Musa in particular.

The leaflet is a response to the ongoing campaign of Democratic Direction (DD); is "addressed to all Freedom-Loving Belizeans who believe in TRUE DEMOCRACY and not communist-styled democracy;" and interprets "the true intention of the so-called Democratic Direction..." It says DD "is made up of militant members of the PUP who want to bring about dangerous changes within the party's framework and structures. Among the members are: Said Musa, MacClovio Alamilla of Shell Oil Company, Gloria MacField, Elkin Trench of Belize Estate, Bobbie Usher of Northern Fishermen, Steve Mahler of Belize Estate, Leni Joe, Martin Saldivar of St. Joseph School, Remijio Montejo, Dorian Barrow of Belize Technical College, Rafael Chavez, Clement Usher of Credit Union of Belize City. From the Cayo District, Assad Shoman, Jorge Aguilar, Juan Duran, Enrique Martinez of Belize Times and Oscar Alonso of Development Finance Corporation. From Orange Walk, Eddie Salas and Domingo Perez from the U.G.W.U, Landy Burns and Chobo Orio, and Godfrey the Lawyer who is the overall contact man."

The leaflet from the PUP rightists, whom are led by Hunter and Minister of Energy and Communications Louis Sylvestre, identified Musa as "the proclaimed leader" of DD, "the leftist party with the PUP." It interprets Musa's declaration to "lead an exodus from the PUP" as his intention "to draw away from the PUP if his ambitions are not attained." Musa's statement that "the leadership of the PUP is self-perpetuating," is interpreted as his intention "to create so much chaos and confusion, the PUP will never be able to close ranks and consolidate its forces..."

The PUP rightists charge "that ever since Said and Assad came into the PUP, voters have turned against the Party..." They left no doubt that they support Prime Minister Price (and themselves, naturally) and will not tolerate DD's "taking control of the PUP in order" to "introduce their doctrines of socialism and communism to ... Belizeans."

Sylvestre and Hunter gave notice that they will not give up without a fight when they state in their leaflet; "... concerned members of the PUP are seriously considering organizing themselves to combat this threat to the security and unity of the party.

"Said must understand that unless he immediately stop his programme of destroying the PUP, he will be made to realise that the very people who forgave him and allowed him into the party in 1973, will be the very ones whose wrath he will have to contend with."

This latest episode in the wrangling within the PUP, over which Party Leader and Prime Minister George Price seemingly has no control, should dispel all doubts as to the deep division in the PUP. Unless one of the factions backs down (which is highly unlikely), the controversy will become more intense and physical blood letting should not be ruled out.

'REPORTER' Story

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 27 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] AN UNSIGNED STATEMENT coming from the self-styled "democratic members of the PUP" has declared open war on two Ministers of the Price Government, referring to them by name and labelling them as "communists".

The latest broadside in the inter-party strife follows a secret meeting which right-wing elements of the PUP held at Hunter's Trinidad Farms and is believed to have been approved by Ministers Luis Sylvester and Fred Hunter.

"We, the democratic members of the People's United Party support our Prime Minister and his government ministers who believe in an practice democracy" their statement declares. "But we will not support Said Musa and Assad Shoman who are definitely communists, and it is these two Ministers who are destroying the minds of our young people which will lead ultimately to the death of the Party".

The statement makes a thinly veiled threat. It says: "Said (meaning Said Musa) must understand that unless he immediately stops his programme of destroying the People's United Party, he will be made to realize that the very people who forgave him and allowed him into the Party in 1973 will be the very ones whose wrath he will have to contend with".

The one-page denunciation of Shoman and Musa is an obvious reply to an earlier leaflet put out by the left wing of the party which calls itself the Democratic Direction". It escoriates Shoman and Musa for saying that the PUP is not democratic, that its leadership is self-perpetuating and that the party has lost much respect.

The right wing statement declares that the "Democratic Direction is already a party within the People's United Party, and it is this faction (the socialists and the Communists) that Said Musa intends to draw away from the PUP if his ambitions are not attained."

The intensified in-fighting between the rival factions of the PUP come at a time when there is heightened speculation that the Prime Minister may try to salvage his strife-torn party by calling premature general elections later this year. Elections have never failed in the past to unite the strange bedfellows of the PUP left and right and appears to be the only remedy left for its beleaguered party leader to try.

Meanwhile the evidence against Education and Sports Minister Mr. Musa as Havana's man in Belize has been growing. Evidence now in hand show that the Belize students who won university scholarships to study in Havana were screened personally by two persons. One was Mr. Musa. The other was Mr. Juan Duran of Benque Viejo.

This week's statement by the democratic members of the PUP gives a detailed list of persons, whom it says are working along with Musa and Shoman for "dangerous changes" within the party framework. In all the statement lists 22 names including that of a Belize City lawyer.

Effect on City Elections

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] WE are very reliably informed that Prime Minister George Price, who is also Leader of the People's United Party (PUP), fears very much to call a convention to select the PUP candidates for this year's Belize City Council elections.

According to our reports, both the left-wing and the right-wing factions of the PUP have made clear that they will each nominate a slate of 9 candidates of their ilk to contest the Belize City Council elections.

The tension between the two factions and the intense hostility they have voiced for each other is such that Price would very much prefer to put off as long as is possible any intensifying of the conflict between the two, as is almost certain to happen when the convention is called. Also, Price finds himself in a most unenviable position since neither side is willing to compromise and in any case, their respect for and loyalty to him are much diminished. He can no longer impose discipline as he once did.

Move Against Sylvestre

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 p 8

[Text] THE past six weeks have been unusually significant on the political scenario.

The curtain lifted with PUP Councillor Danny Meighan leading stalwart party supporters in a picket directed at the Prime Minister.

This was followed by another picketing of the P.M. for participating in a leftists conference at the Fort George Hotel. Mayor Erle Ferguson was implicated.

The result: Meighan was sent to Coventry and Ferguson lost his mayorship. Both were considered ardent supporters of the Sylvestre faction of the PUP.

The leftists (Shoman and Co.) thereupon decided to press its case and their efforts last week, through two important events.

Mark Cuellar, Party Secretary of many years' standing, was forced to resign. This was all hush, hush. He too was a staunch supporter of Sylvestre.

Then, Minister of Communications and Party Chairman "Cous" Sylvestre was removed as chairman of the Belize Electricity Board. The Opposition had for years been demanding his resignation on the ground that his chairmanship of the Board was in conflict with his being the Minister responsible for that Board. Mr. Price would not budge on what was obviously a conflict of interest situation.

The leftists have gained such a strong position that they have now threatened to remove Sylvestre from the chairmanship of the People's United Party.

Indeed, our information is that two Ministers will soon be removed from Cabinet. The reference was clearly to Sylvestre and Hunter.

Scared by this sudden turn of events, the right wing of the party decided to make its move.

Last week Tuesday, a very private conference was quickly called at Hunter's Trinidad Farm on the Northern Road.

The meeting consisted of top level right wingers. But this meeting was different. Some members of the business community were invited.

This not-so-secret meeting was covered by the Special Branch of the Police Force who made a careful note of those who participated.

No statement has come from the pow wow but one is anticipated shortly. Their strategy for dealing with the left will soon be unveiled. At that time the deep rift in the PUP will emerge in the clearest of terms.

And now both sides are girding their loins for a battle which will make past Opposition disagreements look like tea parties.

One thing is certain: both sides have decided to go for each other hook, line and sinker.

PUP watchers are looking on with keen interest, unable to predict the winner of the blood bath that is sure to rock the party to its foundations.

Party Leader Price stands powerless to stop the confrontation which is certain to take place - real soon.

One thing is certain: Cous is in deep trouble. As the saying goes in Belize: Meck yuself a man.

CSO: 3298/404

PAPER REPORTS CONTINUING CRITICISM OF PRICE'S BUDGET

Esquivel Charges

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] DURING the Senate debate on the 1983 budget, Senator Manuel Esquivel, Leader of the United Democratic Party, questioned P.M. Price's claim that "government co-operates with the private sector..." and his stated objectives of the budget ("to stabilize the economy, to stimulate growth ...").

Mr. Esquivel asked if it was more often than not the case that government was competing with the private sector, rather than co-operating with it since "government is so jealous of achievement by any one other than itself, that it seeks to stifle the private sector." He made specific mention of the monopolies of the Marketing Board and the Ministry of Sports competing with Bird's Isle.

Senator Esquivel also raised the matter of taxing motor vehicles based on their fuel efficiency, as opposed to Government's ad valorem taxing. He asked that sections of the budget providing measures "to control inflation, to encourage investment, to increase production, and to provide the climate for self-sustained growth: be pointed out to him since he saw none in the budget.

Mr. Esquivel lauded the exemption of tax on cultural activities but asked why steps to help "the farmers, the milperos, the cattlemen, the industrialists" are not provided for. He also mentioned Belize's worsening trade deficit, due not to increased importation but to reduced export earnings.

Public Officers' Objections

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 pp 6, 7

[Text] In a clear attempt to expose the government of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, George Price, THE VANGUARD, the mouthpiece of civil servants, published the following "budget speech" of their own.

What emerges is an incisive criticism of government by those who know from the inside what is happening.

Mr. Speaker,

In continuation of Cabinet's Policy to improve the "Weathering the Storm" Declaration, we propose to institute the following measures to improve the economic situation in Belize and to start to administrate instead of maladministrate the government.

1. To cut the Ministers' salaries by 25% as they earn enough 'Perks.'
2. To FIRE all Ministers' drivers and let them do their own driving.
3. Reduce unnecessary travelling by Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who produce no reports and only abuse and jolly on the taxpayers' monies.
4. Produce a Development Plan which will be informative and practical and cut out the semantic slogans on Independence.
5. Reduce the national debt by sound economic policies, which is now over \$100 M and account to the people what we did with these monies.
6. Retire permanently all the "Waste: old men at D.F.C., Recondev, B.E.B., Water Authority ec. and give able and qualified men the option for promotion.
7. TO REVIVE the Public Accounts Committee and explain to the nation how we have wasted much needed revenue.
8. Reduce the importation of "Junk Food" and encourage Belizeans to enjoy their own produce.
9. Explain to the Belizean people the state of the economy.
10. To COLLECT all the outstanding "Arrears of Revenue," Land Tax and Income Tax from party supporters and corrupters.
11. Reduce military spending and keep out the Paraquat pushers.
12. Inform the people who are the owners of this country why we travel and what we do; that we owe them an explanation.
13. That we will oepn the BELMOPAN ESTATE to more commercial enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, we intend to operate on a DEFICIT BUDGET and pay no attention to those fantastic figures, since we specialize in Science Fictions.

Mr. Speaker, in our Foreign Policy of being 'right of Centre,' and the CHEAPLY BOUGHT INDEPENDENCE (CBI), we will no longer sell our a.....es to the American politicians. These is much more...

CSO: 3298/405

BRIEFS

UDP VILLAGE MEETING--SAT., FEB. 12--U.D.P. Leaders, Senator Manuel Esquivel, Hon. Curl Thompson, Senator Elodio Aragon, and Area Political Officer Sam Rhaburn travelled to Crooked Tree Village to hold a public meeting today. Even though the weather had been dry for several weeks, one heavy shower of rain in the morning was enough to render the road almost impassable. The four mile journey took about one hour to complete. The UDP Officers met with villagers in the evening and the public meeting was held in to carry on the fight to see to it that Crooked Tree has its elections. darkness (since Crooked Tree still has no electricity). [as printed] Speakers dealt with the depressing economic situation, especially as it affects the rural areas of Belize, and with the continued refusal of the Government to hold Village Council elections in Crooked Tree. It was pointed out to the large turnout of villagers that if the Government is prepared to ignore its own law on Village Council elections, the day might not be too far off when it might refuse to hold national elections. The Party leaders pledged [as printed] [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 p 7]

CSO: 3298/405

DAILY SEES 'SOVIETIZATION' IN LABOR AWARD

PY171129 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Sovietization of the Bolivian Press"]

[Text] Illegal actions against the Bolivian press seek its Sovietization or, better said, its disappearance. This is the sole reason for trying to implement an "arbitrator's decision," which will now be implemented as a supreme resolution, ordering higher wages for the members of the journalists' association.

In addition to the impact which the Machiavellian actions of the Labor Ministry authorities will have on the deteriorated financial situations of the Bolivian press--which, like all private enterprise, is enduring difficult times--they undoubtedly seek to bring about a confrontation between newspaper management and journalists forgetting that they, together, constitute a mainstay of true democracy. We make special mention of the economic aspect since nobody can ignore reality. All the sectors and activities of Bolivian society are enduring difficult times.

However, this does not mean that laws and constitutional provisions should be violated in order to find a solution to a problem. This conviction prompts us to immediately reject such an arbitrary decision pointing out that by doing so we are basically defending a principle rather than our interests.

A brief analysis of the way this issue was handled and the hasty way a decision was reached suggests either that the government sought to completely confuse the Bolivian citizenry, which impatiently waits to learn the economic measures to be implemented precisely in the next few days, or that this is just a test of a decision to be implemented later on in other industries.

In sum, the Labor Ministry's position seeks to suppress freedom of the press in Bolivia. However, it will never be able to accomplish this since, if the outright abuses carried out throughout history by autocratic systems have been confronted with firm decision, this subtle way of trying to get Bolivian journalism to yield will meet determined resistance backed by the Bolivian people and their inalienable right to freedom of opinion and information.

CSO: 3348/274

AIR FORCE COMMANDER ENDS TALKS IN LONDON

PY182033 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1555 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt] London, 18 Mar (TELAM)--Maj Gen Fernando Matthei, Chilean Government junta member and air force commander in chief, today concluded a week of talks with the British high command and with Royal Air Force Commander Marshal Michael Beetham. The talks were surrounded by tight secrecy.

Matthei left Santiago last Friday, but his destination was not revealed. An official communique later released by the Chilean Air Force reported that the purpose of Matthei's trip was to develop professional exchange channels with the British Royal Air Force.

Tight secrecy surrounded the presence of Matthei in London, but the British Defense Ministry, the foreign office and the Chilean Embassy in London confirmed Matthei's visit and made no further comment.

However, it could be learned that Matthei and his British counterpart analyzed the possibility of building a British Air Force base in Punta arenas, Chile, where planes on the regular London-Malvinas Islands route could make stopovers.

In this regard, Great Britain had suggested this possibility to the governments of Brazil and Uruguay, but these two countries did not agree to the British request for an intermediate base between Great Britain and the South Atlantic archipelago occupied by British forces.

Despite the tight secrecy that surrounded the visit paid by the Chilean commander, some political sectors have strongly criticized the policy adopted by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher which, they claimed, may envision a secret agreement between London and Santiago whereby Great Britain would provide military equipment and training, particularly pilot training in Royal Air Force facilities, in return for a territorial compensation.

CSO: 3348/271

STATUS OF NORTHERN COMMAND POLICE UNIT DESCRIBED

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Jan 83 p 10

[Article by Arturo Sanchez P.]

[Text] Tanned by the sun and with a smile of satisfaction, 10 young men with rifles on their shoulders appeared along a dusty trail near the Sapo River. "There they come," shouted a boy.

They belong to the Guanacaste police patrols of the Northern Command that carry out patrol and guard missions through various areas along the Nicaraguan border in search of guerrillas and encampments.

They perform this job without field equipment (uniforms, boots, canteens, field tents, etc.). They lack vehicles, fuel is rationed, and there is not enough radio equipment, including a much-needed helicopter.

Small Detachment

It was 1974. The plan to create the Northern Command was implemented during the administration of President Daniel Oduber (1974-78); during the administration of President Rodrigo Carazo, personnel was increased to 80 men.

"We have 200 civil guardsmen now," Col Johnny Campos, the present vice minister of public security, reported.

However, the command is actually composed of 165 men, who are responsible for such duties as controlling smuggling, crime prevention and coordination with the authorities of the Judicial Investigations Organization (OIJ) and the Liberia city police station.

The crime rate in Guanacaste Province is 14.73 percent per 1,000 inhabitants. It occupies fifth place behind the provinces of San Jose, Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia.

Nevertheless, in recent years the city of La Cruz has experienced a steady increase in criminal cases, which have jumped from 61 in 1978 to 118 in 1982.

The headquarters of the Northern Command is in La Cruz, which is 20 kilometers from the Penas Blancas border point.

Lt Col Rodrigo Rivera Saborio, the present commander, said his men were well fed but lack land and air transport to carry out their duties.

In addition, he pointed out that available equipment was in poor condition and admitted there was a shortage of communications gear, transport, and field equipment for police personnel.

Border Patrols

Land patrols are carried out through "patrol areas," covering approximately 80 kilometers and 6 base camps have been established to date, comprising 10 policemen and a chief.

Despite the suffocating heat they patrol a vast border area stretching from Conventillas and El Navanjo on the Pacific side of the Nicaraguan border to San Cecilia, Birmania, Los Andes, and El Cielo, and in the south from Tempisquito on the Inter-American Highway to Penas Blancas.

There are guerrilla hideouts in this northern territory. They select them in good tactical terrain: in the east in one of the mountains of Guanacaste, on the slopes of Orosi Volcano, near El Hacha Hacienda, at the other end of Los Andes, Monte de Oro, Monte de Plata, etc.

The work is hard. The Northern Command patrols go reach these areas in search of counterrevolutionaries usually involved with the subversive movements that seek to overthrow the Reconstruction Junta that rules from Managua.

Public Health

Parallel with the police work members of the Northern Command perform a public health function in remote villages in coordination with the Public Health Ministry and the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS). "The police and the medics go to the most remote places to bring medicines and diagnose the illnesses of men, women, and children," Rivera said.

The police also organized a cultural program consisting chiefly of folk music and called "Back to the Land."

They bought a marimba with contributions from local businessmen and donations made by all the policemen.

The primary objective of this command, Rivera explained, is to protect the country's neutrality since there have been difficulties in the Nicaraguan border area lately because of clandestine guerrilla operations.

Plans for the immediate future include remodeling the Northern Command headquarters building with the cooperation of the Public Works Land Transportation Ministry (MOPT), Liberia police headquarters, under the command of Col Jose Ramon Montero, the city of La Cruz, and businessmen of San Jose and the locality.

Another project underway is the new headquarters building, for which a site has been set aside. Training courses for members of the detachment are being organized.

The commanders of this police unit are Lt Col Rodrigo Rivera Saborio, commanding officer (with 30 years police experience), Capt Eusebio Jiron Angulo, second in command, and Lt Antonio Castrillo Medina, third in command.

9015
CSO: 3248/520

BRIEFS

SURPLUS COFFEE SALES--Sales of surplus coffee have increased at a faster rate this year over last year. While 65,000 50-kilo sacks had been sold to nonmember countries of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) at this time in 1982, this year sales to the same buyers have reached 171,000 sacks. All sales have been made by domestic exporters registered with the Coffee Office, said Mario Fernandez Urpi, executive director of that agency. Other agency sources said that a team is expected to leave for Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay by 1 March to attempt to market more surplus coffee. Fernandez said that total sales to nonmember countries of the ICO from the 1981-1982 harvest had reached 500,000 sacks, spread among 25 nations. Principal buyers were East Germany, with 124,000 sacks, and Czechoslovakia, with 77,000 sacks. According to the agency, the average price paid for the coffee was \$49 per sack. [Excerpt] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 13A] 9015

NEW AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--The ambassadors of the United Kingdom, India, and Vietnam presented their credentials yesterday to President Luis Alberto Monge. The new British envoy is Peter Wayne Sumerscale, who expressed his interest in strengthening relations between the two nations. He remarked that his government had been studying the possibility of modernizing the Costa Rican railway system for several years. He feels this would be a very good thing for Costa Rica's development but his government has encountered financial difficulties. However, he did not discard the possibility to solidify the plan. The new ambassador from Vietnam is Nsuyn Minh Puang, whose primary post is in Mexico. He recalled that relations between the two countries started in 1974. He expressed interest in broader economic contacts although he recognized the two countries have the same products for export. The representative from India is Shanti Sarup Bhatnager. He talked with President Monge for several minutes and the latter told him events in the Asian nation are followed closely here despite the distance. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 29 Jan 83 p 7-A] 9015

CSO: 3248/520

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MONTANE VISIT TO SYRIA

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] At the invitation of the National Directorate of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, a Cuban Communist Party [PCC] delegation presided over by Jesus Montané, an alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat and head of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Central Committee [CC], visited Syria from 9 to 12 February 1983. The delegation consisted of Alberto Velazco, chief of the North African and Middle Eastern Division of the Ministry of Foreign Relations [MINREX]; and Cuban Ambassador to Syria Lester Rodriguez.

The delegation was granted a special audience with Hafez Al Assad, secretary general of BASP and president of Syria.

During the interview Comrade Jesus Montane extended fraternal greetings from Fidel Castro, first secretary of the CC of the PCC and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of Cuba. He had meetings with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party National Command; Muhammad Zuhayr Makhraqa, regional undersecretary of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party; Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, member of the National Command and president of the National Council of the Partisans for Peace in Syria; and Faruq Shari, minister of foreign affairs.

The delegation visited the liberated city of al-Qumaytirah where they saw the effects of the premeditated and brutal destruction to which the heroic city was subjected at the hands of the Israeli aggressor forces. At the same time the delegation was able to see some of the economic accomplishments and historic places of Syria.

The delegation had talks with representatives of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party headed by Muhammad Haydar, member of the National Directorate and head of the Foreign Relations Office; Muhammad Abu Sard, a director of the International Relations Office of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party National Command; Sallah Ra'id, director of the American and Western Europe Section of the International Relations Office of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party National Command; and Sayyid al-Din Fatum, Haydar's secretary.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, mutual confidence and full understanding with regard to all subjects discussed. Both delegations stressed their great satisfaction with the development of friendly relations and cooperation between their two parties and nations. They reiterated their common wish to continue strengthening and developing these relations for the benefit of their common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionaries.

The Cuban delegation expressed its appreciation of the successes accomplished by the Syrian people under the direction of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and its secretary general, Hafiz al-Assad, and of the progressive socio-economic and cultural changes which have taken place in the country in spite of the constant threats of aggression by the Israelis.

They also reiterated their complete solidarity with their sister Syrian nation in the face of the preparations for a new aggression against it which is supported by the imperialist U.S. Government.

The delegations studied matters of interest to both parties and friendly nations and subjects of mutual interest currently on the international scene. Both parties gave special attention to the grave and tense conditions in the Middle East created by the persistence of the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policy, the most recent example of which is the brutal aggression against Lebanon, the occupation by Israelis of a large portion of Lebanese territory, the threats against Syria and the preparations for aggression against her.

Both parties vigorously condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon which was carried out with the support of the United States of America, and similarly condemn the terrorist practices during that aggression which resulted in mass murder, brutal killings with incredible ferocity of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians and the destruction of Lebanese villages and cities. The two parties demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invasion troops from Lebanon and reaffirm their support of Lebanese independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Both parties salute the heroic resistance by Syrian and Palestinian revolutionary forces and by Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the savage Israeli aggression.

The representatives of both parties consider that these acts of aggression and terrorist practices, which have been committed and are being committed by Israel with the full and total support of the United States of America, are convincing evidence of its aggressive, fascist nature and are the outcome of the Camp David policy and of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the United States and Israel. At the same time they are carried out in implementation of the expansionist policy of the Zionist body and as a reaffirmation of the military and political presence of American imperialism in the Middle East with the aim of liquidating the Palestinian cause, annihilating the Arab National Liberation Movement and striking its important stronghold, Syria, as well as endangering peace and security in the region and the entire world.

Thus, both parties reiterate their full condemnation of the Camp David agreements and their policy of betrayal and all the attempts by imperialism and Zionism to impose this policy on the other Arab nations, as well as the so-called Reagan Plan.

Both delegations also condemned the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian territory of Golan. This action is an illegal act of aggression and expansion. They also condemn all the terrorist activities, and the establishment by the Israelis of settlements, in the occupied Arab territories.

The two delegations again asserted that a just and durable peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through a total withdrawal of the Israelis from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including the right to return to their homeland and the establishment on their native soil, Palestine, of an independent state under the aegis of the PLO, their only legitimate representative.

After analyzing conditions in Latin America, both delegations condemned the aggressive policy of American imperialism against the peoples of that continent, its shameless interference in the domestic affairs of the countries in the region and its efforts to extend its complete hegemony over the region, through its support to the reactionary regimes in power there. At the same time, they condemn sabotage committed against the countries and peoples of Latin America by Israel, the tool of imperialism and Zionism. They reaffirm their militant solidarity with the just struggle for independence and social progress being waged by the peoples and national liberation movements of that continent.

They agreed that the main dangers to peace in the Central American region are the constant imperialist threats against the revolutionary process in Nicaragua and Grenada and they expressed their solidarity with both governments in their resolute resistance to economic, political and military aggression sponsored by the government of the United States of America.

Both parties saluted the struggle by the Salvadorean people, directed by the FDR-FMLN, against Salvadoran tyranny which is the agent of imperialism in the region.

They also condemn the imperialist attempts to block that revolutionary process and they regarded with satisfaction the proposals of the El Salvador revolutionary movement aimed at seeking a negotiated settlement of the conflict in that country.

Both of the delegations expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Guatemalan people and with the revolutionary changes taking place in Suriname.

They also hailed the democratic process going on in Bolivia and they reaffirmed their solidarity and support for the struggle of the peoples of Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay and they also reaffirmed the right to self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico.

The Syrian representatives expressed a high regard for the achievements of the Cuban people under the direction of the PCC and its First Secretary Fidel Castro in building a socialist society and they condemned the economic blockade and the threats of imperialist military aggression which are designed to drown the Cuban revolutionary process in blood.

The Syrian representatives repeated their support of the just demands of the Cuban people and government for the unconditional return of the Guantanamo Naval Base territory, usurped illegally by the U.S. Government.

Also, they expressed solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Asia and Africa against imperialism, Zionism and racism, and for peace and national independence. They believe that it is imperative to increase cohesion and solidarity among the forces of progress, liberation and socialism among all the freedom loving peoples of the world in order to unify the efforts aimed at consolidating peace, achieving disarmament and furthering the processes of reduction of tensions and equitable international cooperation.

Both parties denounced the alliance between Zionist-racist Israel and the racist regime of South Africa which in complicity with American imperialism engage in aggressive policies against the progressive African governments and the African liberation movements.

In this context, they rejected the imperialist attempt to link Namibian independence with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola, and they demanded that the South African Government discontinue its policy of depriving the Namibian people of the right to have their own country.

Along these lines, both parties expressed their recognition of the important role of the socialist community of nations, headed by the friendly Soviet Union, and its help and support in the struggles of the peoples for liberation, national independence and social progress. They reiterated that they support the USSR peace initiatives, all of which help restrain the aggressive American imperialist policy and help reduce the dangers of a devastating nuclear war which is threatening the world.

Both parties appreciate the large, important role which the Nonaligned Nations Movement plays in international politics, and they reiterated their decision to support and develop that movement and to preserve its unity and its anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist and anti-racist objectives.

Both parties hailed the Cuban role in the Nonaligned Nations Movement and especially that of Fidel Castro as its president.

The two delegations expressed their deep gratification over the friendly and cooperative relations between their countries and their parties. They confirmed their mutual willingness to work unceasingly to develop those relations for the benefit of the two friendly parties, peoples and countries. To this effect the signing of the renewal for 1983 and 1984 of the cooperation agreement between the two parties took place.

Damascus, 12 February 1983

9204
CSO: 3248/554

LIONEL SOTO ON ECONOMY, TIES WITH USSR

PM171307 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 83 Second Edition p 4

[Dispatch from own correspondent P. Bogomolov under rubric "Following Party Congresses' Course": "The Pace of the Port of Havana"]

[Excerpts] Havana--The Port of Havana is a sort of barometer of the economic life not only of the capital, with its million inhabitants, but also of the whole country. Its workdays vividly reflect the pace of Cuba's economy, which was set by the Second Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Congress.

...From the top floor of the port management building I am peering at a colorful profusion of ships' flags. Among them are the flags of Cuba, the USSR and other socialist countries, and capitalist countries.

Despite the trade and economic blockade by imperialist U.S. circles, the island of freedom continues to develop ties with many states of the world on a mutually advantageous basis. At present 80 percent of the republic's foreign trade is with socialist countries and one-fifth with capitalist countries.

A visit to the Port of Havana provides much material for comparison and analysis. What I saw on the quayside took on a special meaning in the course of a conversation with Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat.

"The plan for the country's social and economic development in 1983 envisages a 2-2.5 percent increase in gross national product and is linked more than ever before to qualitative and quantitative changes in the republic's foreign economic ties," L. Soto said. "Particularly great stress has been put on replacing imports from capitalist countries with imports of goods from socialist states and on developing our own production of various products. Take, for example, our 'Inpud' refrigerators. Some of the parts for them which had previously been obtained in the West are now coming from the USSR, the GDR and the CSSR.

At the same time, an increasing number of subassemblies are being made by our own efforts.

"In switching our industry and agriculture over to intensive development," he continued, "we are trying to manage without additional resources. The republic's energy balance is thus virtually frozen at the previous level even though the volume of production is increasing. After making spare parts worth 200 million pesos for foreign equipment last year, we will increase this figure to 275 million this year. Local industry is becoming more profitable. At the same time nonproductive spending on maintaining the managerial apparatus and our missions abroad is to be reduced within reasonable limits.

"Only in close collaboration with the Soviet Union--our loyal friend and ally and main trade and economic partner," L. Soto noted in conclusion, "can we steadily increase the republic's national economic potential. There is now no province on the map of Cuba where key enterprises are not being built or modernized in collaboration with the USSR. On the basis of this help and cooperation with the other CEMA member countries we will ensure the fuller satisfaction of the material and spiritual demands of Cuba's working people.

CSO: 1807/172

'GRANMA' WRITER ON FAILURE OF U.S. TO ISOLATE, PRESSURE CUBA

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 83 p 5

[Article by GRANMA columnist (Roberto Alvarez Cinones) in the column "Foreign Publicists in IZVESTIYA": "The Priests of Psychological Warfare"]

[Text] As soon as the United States became convinced that the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship on Cuba was not a regular bourgeois coup, it began erecting one obstacle after another on the path of Cuban revolution. Its goal became--to stifle the first truly people's state in the Western Hemisphere. Taking under its wing the gang of murderers, executioners and minions of the overthrown tyranny, the United States unleashed a struggle against the Cuban revolution on all fronts--economic, political and diplomatic. The noisy propaganda campaign of lies and threats started by them was supplemented by direct acts of aggression. Thus during the period from 1959 to 1963, 232 terrorist acts were committed against Cuba on the orders of the United States--they were murders, sabotage and attempts on the life of Cuban state leaders.

With a self-confidence peculiar to them, the White House, CIA and Pentagon expected to turn back the revolutionary process in Cuba. They underestimated the unity and strength of the Cuban people, their firm resolve to follow the chosen path and the militant international solidarity of the socialist countries and all progressive forces on earth with revolutionary Cuba. The revolution marched ahead, Cuba's international authority grew.

The economic blockade declared against our republic has had its first cracks as far back as October 1969. In response to a refusal by the United States to supply oil to Cuba and to buy its sugar, the country's revolutionary government assumed control of oil refineries and nationalized 36 sugar enterprises belonging to the Americans. During those difficult days, the Soviet Union extended a fraternal hand of assistance to Cuba.

The United States then did everything possible to isolate Cuba, at least, on the Latin American continent scale. The administrations which replaced each other in Washington used all kinds of slander possible to blacken our foreign policy! But these efforts were doomed to failure. Twenty years ago the United States was able to enlist the support of almost all Latin American countries (except Mexico) and expel Cuba from the Organization of American States and to build a wall of diplomatic isolation around it. But it turned out that this

wall was not strong enough. The just and genuinely international ideas of the Cuban revolution and the noble foreign policy based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states--all of this draws forth a growing respect toward Cuba among the people throughout the world.

A new proof of its high authority was the holding in 1979 in Havana of the Sixth Conference of Heads of States and Governments of Nonaligned Nations and the election of Comrade F. Castro as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

Currently in Latin America alone, Cuba maintains diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with 14 States. The government of Bolivia recently adopted a decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Havana.

The steadily growing authority of the Cuban revolution enrages the extreme Right in the United States. With the coming of the Republican Administration to power in the White House, the American "hawks" have staked on making the anti-Cuban line more rigid and have developed an unprecedented campaign of threats and aggressive preparations against our country.

The R. Reagan Administration has not only intensified psychological warfare, but also openly threatens Cuba with military invasion. It exerts an unprecedented pressure on its neighbors south of the Rio Grande, striving to force them to break or at least "freeze" their relations with Havana. Moreover, the White House unequivocally implies that American sanctions await the "disobedient." Washington asserts groundlessly as if Cuba "is the source of tension on the Latin American continent," "an initiator of regional conflicts," "Havana is supplying arms to Salvadoran rebels," "the Soviet Union and Cuba are interfering in the internal affairs of Central American countries." All of these absurd fantasies have been repeated more than once by President R. Reagan himself and by his closest associates.

The events on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands have dealt a hard blow to this deceitful to the core campaign of the United States. Washington's support of Great Britain's actions against Argentina have deepened the gulf between it and Latin America. The reactionary nature of the so-called "interamerican solidarity" was exposed and the hypocritical make-up of the United States in the role of a "friend" of Latin American countries, who supposedly would come to their aid in time of need, was revealed. During the real time of need, Washington unhesitatingly abandoned its Latin American "partner" and sided with London.

Cuba, being true to its international policy, has rendered resolute support to Argentina in its just struggle for national sovereignty. At a meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Nonaligned Nations in Havana, which was held during battles in the South Atlantic, Cuba played an active role in uniting Latin American countries in the face of Anglo-American actions.

The well-deserved recognition of Cuba's noble position has evoked a new fit of hysteria in the White House. Hostility toward Cuba has increased even more.

One cannot appraise otherwise the recent lie fabricated in Washington that our country is supposedly involved in... smuggling narcotics to the United States.

At the same time, plans have appeared in Washington for establishing a radio station for broadcasts to Cuba--modeled after the notorious "Liberty" and "Free Europe" radio stations. With striking cynicism and ignorance, the ring-leaders from Washington initially named the future radio station as "Radio Marti." It should have been nicknamed "Radio Reagan" because the plan for such a station was already developed in the notorious document of the "Santa Fe Committee," which was prepared for Reagan by a group of his closest advisors. In describing measures which must be adopted against Cuba, the document singles out the necessity of beginning a broad psychological warfare and adds: "If propaganda does not achieve its goals, a liberation war should be undertaken against Castro." No explanation, as the saying goes, is needed here.

The falsehood of American propaganda is so obvious that even Americans themselves refuse to swallow its poisonous pills. For example, U.S. citizen (Bertrand Stiller) recently sent a letter to the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES in which he writes: "Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Interamerican Affairs (Thomas Enders) lies when he says that the Cuban Government is unable to ensure the material progress of its own people. According to UN data, the supply of foodstuffs to the Cubans is 30 percent better than to the population of Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras." The author of the letter did not choose these countries by accident. It is precisely their antipopular regimes that are enjoying special sympathy of the R. Reagan Administration.

"The literacy level in Cuba exceeds 96 percent at a time when it barely reaches 35 percent of the population in Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras," the letter states further. "The average life expectancy in Cuba equals 70 years at a time when in the three aforementioned countries it does not even reach 50."

Despite all Washington's efforts and the psychological warfare against our country which has been going on for nearly a quarter of a century, the truth about Cuba makes its way to the people of the entire world. The sun cannot be covered with the palm of one's hand.

9817
CSO: 1807/131

STORMS CAUSE DAMAGES IN SEVERAL AREAS

Report on Damages

FL181620 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Summary] The Institute of Meterology has reported that high seas lashed the low-lying coastal areas of Western Cuba. On the south coast from Cienfuegos to Granma, low-lying coastal areas are still in danger of flooding from high seas.

In the western half of Cuba winds reached 30 to 75 kms per hour with higher wind gusts and on the eastern half winds were between 30 and 60 kms per hour with higher wind gusts.

Areas nearest the Havana seaboard were flooded by the sea yesterday evening reaching unprecedeted levels. Civil defense forces were mobilized to assist the population of neighborhoods surrounding El Vedado to recover and save their belongings. Flood waters were chest high in some streets.

In Regla, the fishing terminal and thermoelectric plant operations were affected. Similar difficulties were suffered by 177 centers of old Havana, Marianao, 10 October, Guanabacoa, central Havana and the rest of the province where a considerable amount of production, work in progress, construction and repair projects were paralyzed. Fourteen houses were partially damaged and eight families were left homeless when a wall collapsed in a Luyano building.

In Pinar del Rio, the tornadoes that hit the province caused serious damage, including 29 hurt--7 critically--73 houses destroyed and 370 partially damaged. The municipalities where the damage was most severe were Sandino, Los Palacios, Bahia Honda, Pinar del Rio and San Luis. Due to damage to the powerline from Mariel to Artemisa, the province is suffering power losses and other problems. Two steel towers, carrying the new 220-kilowatt line in Pinar del Rio, were lifted from their bases and destroyed by the high winds.

The general staff of the civil defense in Matanzas reported that the most severe damage was registered in Varadero where the antennas of the international airport were knocked down. A leg of the 33,000-volt line and two poles were knocked down cutting off power to Playa Azul but power was restored late last night. Similarly, several pine trees were felled on the road between Varadero and Matanzas by winds which registered up to 158 kms per hour.

In Camaguey a total of 1,283 persons were evacuated, 124 houses were totally or partially destroyed and 48 other installations were damaged by the torrential rains. The most severe damage was registered in the municipalities of Esmeralda, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Nuevitas, Florida and Najasa where the rainfall was particularly high. The El Real Salt Mine, near Santa Lucia beach, was severely lashed by the storm, causing a loss of 700,000 tons of salt and partially destroying some of the warehouses.

In Santa Clara hail fell over most of the city.

Reviewing the damage caused by the torrential rains, Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Hanava, said that it was necessary to make a great effort to harvest 2.5 million quintals of potatoes. He called for a large mobilization to prevent the loss of the many caballerias of potatoes already planted. In the city of Havana they plan to mobilize 3,744 volunteers and students to work, including weekends, on the potato harvest.

Meeting Discusses Damages

FL181951 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] A meeting to discuss the effects of the penetration of the sea in various areas of Havana was just held at the party's provincial committee office. Julio Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member and first secretary in Havana City Province, and Oscar Fernandez Mel, president of the provincial people's assembly in the same province, chaired this meeting.

According to a civil defense report, 4,449 people have already been evacuated from Playa, Plaza, Centro Havana, old Havana and east Havana [municipalities]. All have been lodged in private homes.

It was reported that several important buildings were damaged. Such is the case of the Riviera Hotel, Karl Marx Theater, the Sierra Maestra Hotel, the Cristino Naranjo Social Circle and the tunnel across the port of Havana which is closed to traffic because of the penetration of water. Powerful equipment is being used to pump the water out.

Further on Damages

FL191750 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Summary] Some 4,429 people were evacuated from the city of Havana due to flooding caused by the penetration of sea waters. The municipalities most severely affected were Plaza de la Revolucion, Playa, Centro Havana, and old Havana. Four houses were reported destroyed in Playa Municipality and 10 were partially damaged.

Electrical workers have been working on the 200,000-volt line which was totally destroyed. Other brigades are working on the 110,000-volt lines from Mariel to Pinar del Rio and from Mariel to the city of Havana.

The light and the food industries have been the most affected by the loss of electric power. The most critical areas are those flooded portions of Havana nearest the beach since water sources have been contaminated by salt water and cleaning cannot proceed because the high seas penetrated again last night.

Politburo member Julio Camacho Aguilera called on all the people to recover everything possible and to work on minimizing losses.

The directorate of public health in Havana announced that all water, including water treated with chlorine, must be boiled due to the possibility of contamination.

Jaime Crombet, first secretary of the party in Pinar del Rio, toured areas which sustained damage. He called on farmers to save all the tobacco possible. A large number of houses, huts, tobacco curing houses, high tension power towers and plantain plants were destroyed by tornadoes in Pinar del Rio. Recovery operations are under way.

In Camaguey, 1,646 persons were evacuated. The general staff of the civil defense reported 134 houses were totally destroyed or partially damaged while 49 state installations were seriously damaged. The line followed by the storm from north to south and to the east of Camaguey Province affected the municipalities of Esmeralda, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Florida, Camaguey, Najasa and Nuevitas. Santa Cruz del Sur was affected by some flooding caused by high seas.

CSO: 3248/601

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MONTANE VISIT TO PDRY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 9 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] By invitation of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, a delegation of the Cuban Communist Party headed by Comrade Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat and head of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, visited the Yemen People's Democratic Republic from 2 February to 8 February 1983.

The delegation was received by Comrade Ali Nasser Muhammad, general secretary of the PSY [Yemen Socialist Party], president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and of the Council of Ministers of the Yemen People's Democratic Republic.

During the meeting Comrade Jesus Montane delivered to Comrade Ali Nasser Muhammad a message from Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Talks between the delegation from the Cuban Communist Party and the delegation from the PSY were held in a climate of friendship and mutual understanding, the similarity of viewpoints existing between them becoming evident.

Presiding over Yemen's side during the talks was Comrade Abdul Qadir Abdul Ghani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PSY.

Presiding for the Cuban side was Comrade Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo and head of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the degree of development reached in the bilateral relations between the two parties, governments and countries, based on the principles of scientific socialism and of proletarian internationalism.

They also assessed the results of the visit paid by Comrade Ali Nasser Muhammad, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PSY and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and of the Council of Ministers, in his capacity as head of a delegation of the party and government of the Yemen People's Democratic Republic to the Republic of Cuba at the beginning of the year 1982, as well as the significant talks held with Comrade Fidel Castro.

During the course of the talks, reference was made to the fulfillment of the resolutions reached by the Special General Meeting of the PSY and by the Second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party and to the tasks being undertaken by both parties and countries in their present stage of development.

Ideas were also exchanged regarding the bilateral collaboration between the two parties, and questions concerning other areas of Yemen-Cuban relations and means to facilitate their development and consolidation were considered.

The Cubans were highly appreciative of the profound and progressive socio-economic and cultural transformations that have taken place in the PDRY under the leadership of the PSY, as well as of the positive contribution made by Democratic Yemen toward the solidarity among Arab countries based on the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and the unity this creates among the struggling Palestinian People.

They also praised the effective solidarity aimed at constructive cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

The Yemeni side was highly appreciative of the success attained by the Cuban people under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party in the fulfillment of the resolutions of the Second Congress and in the subsequent development of the socialist society, giving high marks to the combative role and the solidarity of its revolutionary struggle in support of the campaign for liberation of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and to its positive role in the Nonaligned Nations Movement.

They also reaffirmed the importance of the support given by Cuba to Democratic Yemen, which contributed to the attainment of national independence and the socialist objectives of the national democratic revolution.

The Yemeni side expressed its appreciation for the indomitable and ethical support given by the Republic of Cuba to the legitimate struggle of the Arab people.

On analyzing the present international situation, both sides reaffirmed the importance of the struggle for peace, for warding off the threat of a catastrophic nuclear war and for the development of cooperation among countries with different socialist regimes.

They expressed deep concern over the increase in international tension due to the policies followed by North American imperialism and those of other member countries of NATO in unleashing an unrestrained arms race.

They also condemned the North American policy of brazen interference in other countries' internal affairs and their use of pressure and blackmail in trying to impose their will and repress the people's legitimate aspirations for liberty and social progress.

Both sides hailed the peace proposals made by the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade Yuri Andropov, directed towards achieving a climate of international security and reduced tension.

Both sides gave special attention to the violent situation in the Middle East resulting from Israel's expansionist and aggressive policies towards the Palestinian people and towards the rest of the Arab countries, in which North American imperialism is an accomplice.

They energetically condemned Israel's occupation of Lebanese territory and the barbaric massacre committed against West Beirut's civilian population, facts that bring to mind the most heinous crimes perpetrated in the history of humanity and which were carried out by Israeli soldiers with the U.S. Government's complete knowledge and support.

Both sides reject U.S. and Israeli attempts to impose conditions on Lebanon with the sole purpose of carrying out the objective that started with the savage Israeli aggression against that independent nation, and they demanded the end of the occupation of Lebanese territory by Israel and the fulfillment of the UN resolutions relating to this, with the objective of guaranteeing Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial unity.

Both sides expressed admiration for the heroism, in the face of Israeli aggression, of the Palestinian combatants and the Lebanese national forces, whose steadfastness was the main factor that made possible the defeat of the aggressor's plans to eliminate Palestinian resistance and to do away with the Palestinian movement.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the spreading growth of the world's interest in the Palestinian people's movement and in their right to self-determination, a consequence of the bravery and heroism of the Palestinian fighters, all of which has strengthened the international position of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Both sides expressed complete rejection of the so-called Reagan plan for the Middle East, whose only purpose is to deprive the Palestinian Arab people of their right of establishing a free and independent state in their own territory and to ignore the role played by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the UN in the solution of the Middle East problem.

They also expressed their rejection of the attempt to replace a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict, and particularly the Palestinian problem, with concessionary agreements similar to those of Camp David.

Both sides expressed their total conviction that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East will not be achieved if the Palestinian problem is not solved in a just and comprehensive manner based on the complete withdrawal of the Israelis from the Arab territory occupied since 1967 and the guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to form an independent state. They reaffirmed their total support of the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

They also stated that this just solution can be achieved by holding an international conference with the participation of all the interested parties, including the PLO in its role as representative of the Palestinian people.

Both sides talked about the situation in the peninsula, the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea--they stressed the importance of converting this zone into a peaceful one--and strongly condemned the increasing U.S. attempts at interfering in the internal affairs of the countries in the area, trying to make them give up their legitimate right to control their national assets.

They clearly stated their opposition to the location of foreign military bases in this region and the proliferation of atomic weapons here.

Both parties affirmed once more their support for declaring the Indian Ocean a region of peace and, in accordance with the UN resolution, called for an international conference regarding this matter.

Both sides reaffirmed their support for the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and for the struggle led by the POLISARIO front in their fight for the defense of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Cuban and Yemeni delegations, on analyzing the Latin American and Caribbean situation, agreed that the main threat to peace in Central America is represented by the constant imperialist threats faced by the people's revolutions in Nicaragua and Grenada, which need maximum international support and solidarity.

Both sides welcomed the proposals made by the FDR-FMLN [Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] aimed at finding a negotiated solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

Both sides condemned the threats, pressure and imperialist maneuvers aimed at destabilizing and intimidating the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and stopping the revolutionary processes existing in the region, especially in El Salvador, under the leadership of the FDR-FMLN, and in Guatemala.

They declared their solidarity with the revolutionary process taking place in Suriname. They also hailed the democratic process taking place in Bolivia and reiterated their solidarity and support for the peoples of Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Puerto Rico and all the countries who struggle against oppressive dictatorial regimes.

Both sides strongly condemned the U.S. use of Israel in their interventionist policies in Latin America, which has resulted in the signing of military agreements between Zionist regimes and Latin American dictatorships, and in the increase of U.S. and Israeli intervention in the region's affairs.

The Yemeni side reiterated its support for the just demands of the people and government of Cuba that ask for the unconditional return of the Guantanamo naval base territory expropriated by the U.S. Government, as well as the lifting of the criminal economic blockade it has imposed on them.

They expressed their concern about the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and asserted the need to find a just and honorable political solution to this conflict, since this would benefit both countries and would consolidate the struggle against imperialist designs in the area.

Both parties emphasized the important role played by the Nonaligned Nations Movement in reinforcing international peace and security and its contribution in the search for a new economic order, and pointed out that the intense activity carried out by the movement during the last few years is evident proof of the unstoppable advance of the people in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism and apartheid.

The Yemeni side hailed the important role played by Cuba and by Comrade Fidel Castro as president of the Nonaligned Nations Movement and his valuable contribution to the strengthening of unity among member countries.

Both sides affirmed the need to consolidate the unity of socialist forces, the national liberation movements and the national and progressive forces in the world that struggle for peace and national stability and for liberation, independence and social progress.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the talks held, which were characterized by a friendly, fraternal atmosphere.

They also expressed their confidence that this visit could be considered a contribution to the consolidation and development of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries in all areas and in favor of peace, security and social progress in the world.

9907
CSO: 3248/553

NAVAL TRAINING FOR OFFICERS DESCRIBED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 28 Jan 83 No 4 pp 42-45

[Article by Miguel A. Masjuan: "Being a Navy Officer"]

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces has urged all youngsters who aspire to become highly-skilled officers in the various military branches and specialties to opt for the scholarships being offered for the next course. These officer training courses will be given at the Naval Academy of the Revolutionary Navy in Havana for a period of 5 years for engineers.

Ever since I was a boy, I had the idea that, when I was big, I would sail on one of those ships you can see far away, almost on the horizon. Spending Sundays in the little launch that cruised the bay was my favorite recreation because in that way I was able to get a close look at the white and black ships that were anchored there, with many mechanisms of which I did not know what they were, nor what they were for, but all of this drew my attention. I remember that on one morning, sitting on the seawall, I saw a torpedo boat sail past at great speed. On that day I decided that one of those little gray boats would be much more suitable for me than one of those big ships with its many mechanisms. That idea did not leave my head from that moment on. I was still finishing primary school and I had wanted to sign up at that time but my father explained to me how difficult it would be to get to be a navy officer since you have to study hard and behave properly so that you would be admitted to the Naval Academy.

Those young fellows, who were marching on the parade ground, dressed in white, had a special attraction for me. Nobody marched better than those midshipmen-- I would tell myself every time I saw them--and was dreaming of wearing the dress uniform in front of one of those formations. But all I could do at that time was think about those things. I was going to be an officer in the Revolutionary Navy. The problem consisted in the requirement for getting into the Academy. What was I supposed to do?

This is the short background story of a midshipman who is soon scheduled to complete his studies and who will be assigned as engineer in the corresponding special field. In his hands he will have the most modern naval fighting equipment in order successfully to defend the waters of the fatherland.

The Naval Academy is a center that trains higher-level cadres for the Navy, the Merchant Marine, and the Ministry of the Fishing Industry. It is still under construction at the mouth of the Santa Ana River, along the border between the provinces of Havana City and Havana, between the Santa Fe and Baracoa beaches.

Once accepted, the midshipmen draw an allowance depending upon their year of study and an additional allowance determined by the position they hold in the center's military organization. Like any kind of higher education, the midshipmen at the Naval Academy get 6 weeks of vacations per year, in other words, one week during the month of February, upon completing the first semester, and 5 weeks during the period of July and August, before or after the practical navigation training phase. Departures for and returns from vacations are by land transportation going to the provinces.

Liberty during the course is organized as follows: The first-year midshipmen get liberty once a week, from Saturday at 1700 until Sunday at 2100. Land transportation is used for departure for and return from liberty. Second-year and third-year midshipmen get liberty from 1800 until 0600 of the following day; they get liberty twice a week, one day between the week and the weekend, like the others. In accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], all midshipmen may be rewarded for outstanding activity, including moral and material incentives, with additional liberty.

But other activities, which constitute a great attraction for the midshipmen, are also taking place at the Academy. The curriculum is so planned that there are groups of amateurs in many fields; the most outstanding participants take part in intramural activities and festivities and within the Armed Forces as such.

The same is true of athletic activities which are adequately taken care of in the center's program to develop athletic skills in many disciplines; of course, nautical sports hold a preponderant place. The annual schedule is made up of all kinds of sports sailing, swimming, water polo, competitive underwater activities, as well as research. The midshipmen compete not only within the Academy and the Armed Forces but Academy students also take part in provincial and national events as well as university competitions promoted by the various divisions of the INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation] and the Ministry of Higher Education.

The center also awards titles such as captain, first officer, and ocean-going pilot, first engineer (chief engineer), second ship engineer, and naval machinist, coastal master, port master, auxiliary driving master. These titles can be earned through short courses for the whole country.

The Scientific Military Society of Students has been established at the center; this is a research organization which, with the support of the faculty, many of whom are engineers with advanced degrees, as well as doctoral candidates in various specialties, works on projects that will make it possible to save large sums of foreign exchange. This is a unique society in Cuba. Most of

the midshipmen quickly join in the research work since they know that this is the way to promote the country's economic growth. Initiative is the main factor, according to what we were told by fourth-year midshipman Alejandro Justo Rodriguez, president of the society. The really impressive thing in this effort is the enthusiasm and the dedication of the students to the society. Here is where we can realize the high level attained by the feeling of pride in being a student at the Academy. Talking to those boys about their study center is inspiring. "It is true that the requirements are stiff," I was told by a midshipman who is about to graduate, "but you feel so good and you feel so sure of yourself that you are happy to do your very best in meeting the requirements for being a member of the Academy. Somehow, everybody at the center participates in the society's work to achieve maximum possible development in the skill training of our sailors. We are proud of studying and preparing ourselves for life at a center of higher education such as our beloved Naval Academy. Here, all of us, midshipmen, commanders, and professors, are one big family."

And so it is at the Naval Academy of the Revolutionary Navy. That was the impression we took away with us after we spent many hours going through the installations and conducting long and interesting talks with those youngsters who are shaping their future as Cuban navy officers in the three major subject fields that are being taught here; this is where they are really being prepared for defense and production better than ever before. If I were 18 years old, I would go to the academy.

Requirements for Admission to Academy

Political and moral qualities necessary for a person who wishes to become an officer in the FAR.

High school graduation certificate (college preparatory or equivalent).

Single.

Minimum age 17, maximum age 21.

Physically fit for active military service.

Only males may apply.

Midshipmen at the Naval Academy study 16 specialties, eight of which are for the Navy, four are for the Merchant Marine, and four are for fishing.

Specialties for the Navy include the following:

Rocket and artillery weapons with qualification as electromechanical military engineer.

Navy navigator with qualification as military navigation engineer.

ASW weapons, torpedos, mines, and minesweeping systems, with qualification as electromechanical military engineer.

Radio-engineering armaments of surface units, with qualification as radio-engineering military engineer.

Radio communications, with qualification as military engineer in radio communications.

Diesel power systems for surface units, with qualification as military mechanical engineer.

Electrotechnology, with qualification as military electrical engineer.

Political, with qualification as graduate in social sciences.

Here are the fields of specialization for the Merchant Marine:

Navigator on sealanes, with qualification as navigation engineer.

Electro-radio-navigator and radio communications, with qualification as electro-radio-navigating engineer and naval radio communications.

Energy installation operation, with qualification as naval mechanical engineer.

Electro-naval installations operation, with qualification as naval electromechanical engineer.

Here are the fields of specialty for fishing:

Navigator on sealanes and for the fishing industry, with qualification as navigating engineer.

Electro-radio-navigator with qualification as electro-radio-navigating engineer.

Operation of energy installations [power plants] and of the fishing industry, with qualification as naval mechanical engineer.

Operation of electrical installations and of the fishing industry, with qualification as naval electromechanical engineer.

5058
CSO: 3248/573

U.S. 'NEOCONSERVATIVE OFFENSIVE' VIEWED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jan 83 p 2

[Commentary by Carlos Mora Herman: "U.S.: Neoconservative Offensive"]

[Text] The new conservatism that came to power in the United States with the team headed by Ronald Reagan is waging an internal and external ideological battle for the hegemony that the country has lost as a result--some spokesmen say--of the weaknesses and mistakes of previous administrations.

Internally, the new U.S. conservatism is facing what is known as the new right, made up of organizations of various sorts but all of them strongly linked to the religious right.

Although some people may think that there cannot be a more conservative trend than that of Reaganism, the new right is more conservative.

It even has achieved ideological coherence and administrative efficiency, primarily since 1974.

The new right's action on the religious front has been profound and systematic, giving rise to associations such as the Moral Majority, the Christian Voice and the Religious Round Table, all of them with grass-roots mobilization power.

The new conservatism still does not have the mobilization potential of the new right, and it is characterized as being a more intellectual movement.

U.S. military superiority over the Soviet Union is a principal foreign policy claim.

On the religious field, the new U.S. conservatism is following a very aggressive policy as part of the global policy of Reaganism and it is an effective tool to help get the country out of the deep political crisis in which it has sunk, a crisis whose roots are found in moral and cultural factors.

Anti-Sovietism is the core of neoconservative strategy and, by extension, the all out war against countries considered to be linked to the USSR, essentially Cuba.

As part of that war, the Institute for Religion and Democracy (IRD), made up of evangelical religious groups and political activists, was created in April 1981.

All the people who belong to this institute are closely linked to the neo-conservative establishment that currently guides the destinies of the United States.

On the religious field, the primary objective of the U.S. offensive, and echoed by ultraconservative sectors of the U.S. church, is to harm the relations of certain U.S. churches and progressive sectors of the Latin American church, and to distort the truth of the Cuban Government's relations with the country's religious organizations.

The Third "Oscar Arnulfo Romero" Christian Meeting was held in Mexico last year, gathering 550 delegates from christian churches of 22 countries in Cuernavaca, Morelos State.

Some participants took advantage of the meeting to explain the principal points of the offensive against Cuba and liberation movements of Central America.

That offensive, sponsored by the J.S. Government and carried out through the IRD, then was denounced by various sectors and by Argentine researcher Ana Maria Ezcurra, who has written a book on the subject titled: The Neoconservative Offensive: U.S. Churches and the Ideological Struggle Towards Latin America (Mexico, January 1982).

The book analyses the entire strategy of the brand new institute and reveals the paper which the IRD has prepared about religion in Cuba.

The paper consists of two parts, the first is of an investigative nature and the second is eminently operational.

The first part contains a report titled "Castro and the Churches," which deliberately distorts the truth about church-state relations in Cuba and the situation of believers in the island.

The report says that in Cuba believers are the object of repression, bureaucratic control and unofficial discrimination and that religion is used for purposes of the state.

The christian community in Cuba--according to the report--is divided into three groups: the political or religious dissidents; the survivors, who adapt to government regulations to maintain and preserve their institutions; and the collaborators, who totally submit to the government.

The IRD's paper accuses certain U.S. religious denominations and the U.S. National Council of Churches of ignoring the dissidents and survivors among the Cuban religious population and of cooperating with and sanctioning institutions and leaders that cooperate more actively with Cuban authorities,

such as the United Theological Seminary of Matanzas and the Cuban Council of Churches.

Numerous testimonies of churchmen who have visited Cuba recognize the freedom of worship that exists in this country, the compatible dialogue between believers and nonbelievers in the struggle for a more just and humane society, the attention that the state gives to affairs of the churches and the fact that there is no restriction on citizens for their religious beliefs and that for the state all have equal rights and duties.

This new maneuver of the U.S. administration against the people of this continent has been exposed and it will fool increasingly fewer people.

9925
CSO: 3248/548

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DISCUSSES GATT

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jan 93 pp 23-24

[Article by Hector Danilo]

[Text] The 38th GATT conference, held in Geneva 24-29 November 1982, once again showed that the industrialized capitalist countries, particularly the United States, do not want to offer constructive solutions for the most critical problems of the world economy and of the so-called Third World.

Some of the more salient aspects of the conference are examined in an exclusive interview granted to PRISMA by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz. The conference was characterized by an open confrontation between the EEC, the United States and Japan, which contrasted with the position of unity assumed by the nations of the so-called Third World.

In Cabrisas' opinion, the trade differences between the principal capitalist powers centered primarily on protectionism, export subsidies, farm goods trade and exchange rate fluctuations.

The Cuban minister said the recently concluded GATT conference should have faced, above all, the situation of developing countries but concentrated instead on the U.S. EEC differences.

Problems related to access of developing countries products to capitalist markets were not properly considered and the decisions made, if implemented, will have a very limited scope.

In this regard, Cabrisas believes that the problems not aired at the GATT conference can be discussed within a broader scope at the Sixth UNCTAD Conference scheduled for May or June in Yugoslavia.

Evaluating the position taken by the United States, he said the U.S. delegation made its greatest efforts on including within GATT's domain such topics as investments, high technology products and insurance. To this end, it exercised a policy of pressure and blackmail on the developing countries, which these flatly rejected.

Cabrisas said the final U.S. objective was to use the conference to promote another round of talks within GATT between the industrialized and developing

countries, so as to obstruct negotiations at the UN General Assembly and UNCTAD.

Ever since preparatory work for the conference began, the United States was against including specific commitments in the ministerial document to be approved by GATT granting preferential and more favorable treatment to developing countries.

Regarding the EEC, Cabrisas explained that the most important matter was the subject of export subsidies, which it said was not negotiable.

He said the EEC had negative stands on various matters, emphasizing that it could not commit itself to antiprotectionist measures on farm goods.

Assessing Japan's position, the Cuban minister stressed that protectionism was one of the most important topics for that country which called for the adoption of firm commitments in that regard. He said Japan maintained a more flexible attitude toward the problems discussed than the United States and EEC.

It is an obvious fact, he said, that international economic negotiations have bogged down, primarily because of the position assumed by the industrialized capitalist countries, particularly the United States.

Who Hears Them?

The clash of interests between the United States, EEC and Japan during the GATT conference is an example of the philosophy "everybody for himself."

This feeling prevails among commercial and press circles in the face of the positions that each western "ally" adopted to cover its true aims.

The United States, principal leader of "do as I say, not what I do," presented itself as defender of free trade and of GATT principles.

The EEC, showing off its predominance in the Old World, tried for maintenance of the 10-year old agreements which give it the right to continue to subsidize its farm goods, regardless of who gets hurt by this policy.

For its part, Japan rejoices over the clash between its competitors and hopes that the dispute between the others will permit it to shelve its "uncomfortable position of largest exporter" in a world overburdened by recession and [economic] imbalance.

Amid this uproar, who hears the cries of the appeal of the Third World, the biggest loser but, at the same time, a desired market despite its announced financial bankruptcy?

Although the ministers generally agreed that the developing countries represent the factor which most dynamically can help to reactivate international trade, the political will did not exist to make the decisions required in that regard.

He said the GATT declaration was the result of a commitment forced by the industrialized capitalist countries and that although it contains matters of interest to the so-called Third World, it falls short of what is necessary.

9925
CSO: 3248/548

REAGAN'S SPEECH ON CENTRAL AMERICA SCORED

FL121850 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Mar 83

["Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has once again tried to justify his intention to continue to provide aid to the genocidal regime of El Salvador. Now he is proposing an emergency military aid package of \$110 billion in order to have that nation's criminal government continue the wave of assassinations against the people.

In a recalcitrant and reactionary speech before the National Association of Manufacturers, Reagan asserted that another \$190 million would be requested from the Congress to give it to other Central American regimes allied with the United States.

Likewise, he repeated his accusations against Cuba and the Soviet Union, trying to distort the facts, and said he favored elections in El Salvador without the participation of the guerrillas. His speech was characterized by his refusal to negotiate with leftist forces, his deep hatred of the revolution and his intent to keep the situation at an impasse.

The many kinds of justifications used by Reagan to frame this aggressive and sinister policy were the order of day in his address to the manufacturers, despite the worn-out state of these arguments.

Reagan said that U.S. national security is at stake in Central America, although he failed to explain what the war in El Salvador has to do with the security of the far away borders of the United States. However, he did not say that what is at stake in the Salvadoran war is his egotistical interest in the area and that therefore the war, encouraged by the United States, endangers peace in the region.

Despite his sarcasm, Reagan had to admit that the situation in El Salvador does not favor the regime of Alvaro Magana and that the guerrillas have the upper hand. Of course, that acknowledgement was followed with the alleged commitment Washington has to help this unfortunate friend.

During his string of nonsense, Reagan indicated that his aim was to help the army against the guerrillas peril, forgetting that the one who started the policy of crimes and terror against the Salvadoran people was this very same unfortunate, rotten and defenseless army which serves the reactionaries and Washington.

Elsewhere, he added that an increase in the number of military advisors to participate in the antiguerilla war is under study, although he insisted that no U.S. troops would be sent to that country, trying to make everyone forget that U.S. military advisors' actual participation in Salvadoran military operations has been proven on more than one occasion.

There is skepticism in Congress over Reagan's speech and the leader of the Democratic majority, Tip O'Neill, said he believed Reagan had made a gross exaggeration and failed to provide enough justification for the money he is requesting. The NEW YORK TIMES asserted that the war in El Salvador does not appear to be an advanced front of struggle against communism and added that, contrary to what the president says, what is happening in El Salvador is the result of a long history of economic tyranny and political oppression on the part of a small ruling elite. The same paper said that Salvadoran Government troops are more interested in wiping out the population than in the fight against the guerrillas.

Thus U.S. public opinion begins to manifest itself over the nonsensical and living Reagan speech which was aimed at trying to increase military aid to El Salvador. Only these who think like he does could believe in such arguments.

His speech notwithstanding, the fate of El Salvador is being decided on the fields of battle. The guerrillas have been gaining an unstoppable string of victories. The FMLN and the FDR have proclaimed their decision to negotiate and the Salvadoran regime is completely bankrupt. Therefore, the only thing left is to ask Reagan of that \$10 million is to be used for the funeral of the Alvaro Magana administration.

CSO: 3248/582

ROA INTERVIEWED ON NONALIGNED MEETING

PA080334 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Interview with Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations and a member of the Cuban delegation attending the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, given in New Delhi--live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] We understand that you are currently the president of the Latin American group participating in the conference.

[Answer] Yes, in fact I head the group comprising the Latin American full members of the movement.

[Question] Has the group been acting in unity since New York?

[Answer] I would say that at the meetings held in New York City before traveling to New Delhi, the group showed unity in considering that the problems broached at the preliminary meeting of the movement in Managua and the final communique of that meeting should serve as the bases for the discussion of problems affecting Latin America and the Caribbean at the Seventh Summit Conference.

[Question] Taking into consideration that the speech delivered Monday by Cuban President Fidel Castro touched on economic and political problems, particularly those of Latin America and the Caribbean, what are the most important Latin American issues at this meeting?

[Answer] The most important Latin American topics are the situation in Central America and the Caribbean resulting from the revolutionary struggle of the Salvadoran people and the attempts by the U.S. imperialist government and its Salvadoran lackeys to obstruct the victory of the Salvadoran revolution, and the discussion aimed at this problem being settled as recommended by the presidents of Mexico and France, and later by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama at Cotoradora Island, through peaceful negotiations with the participation on equal terms and without prior conditions of the representative political forces of El Salvador.

[Question] It is significant that at the first summit held in Belgrade in 1961 only one Latin American nation, Cuba, attended as a full member. How many full members are there now from Latin America and the Caribbean in the movement, with the entry on this Monday of Colombia, Barbados [words indistinct]?

[Answer] The movement now has 17 Latin American and Caribbean full members. After the sixth summit, 10 Latin American and Caribbean nations had entered the movement. This shows the willingness of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to take their place on the international scene with a sovereign and independent stance. It also shows how the nations of the Nonaligned Movement--conceived in 1961 as an instrument to defend the independence and sovereignty of the nations that created it--continues to be an effective vehicle in the defense of the nations' independence and sovereignty.

[Question] After hearing the speeches of India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the new president of the Nonaligned Movement, and of Cuban President Fidel Castro, who had held the post for the last 48 months, and in view of the general climate of the conference, are you optimistic about this seventh summit?

[Answer] Of course I feel optimistic. I believe that the principles of the movement, as pointed out by Companero Fidel, have been strengthened, and that the movement has shown more unity than at the sixth summit, unity gained during the past 3 years. The movement's strength and its capacity for action have been strengthened considerably during this period. I am certain that the movement will uphold with the same vitality at this seventh summit its anti-imperialist, anticolonialist, antineocolonialist and antiracist stance that has been its main trait since its foundation.

CSO: 3248/582

REPORTAGE ON MALMIERCA VISIT TO SPAIN

Meets Felipe Gonzalez

FL181240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Kind greetings from President Fidel Castro were conveyed to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez yesterday by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Yesterday Malmierca began the first visit to Spain by a Cuban foreign minister since Cuba became a republic.

Their meeting lasted 1 and 1/2 hours and took place in a very cordial atmosphere. Felipe Gonzalez and Isidoro Malmierca reviewed the development of bilateral relations and agreed to contribute toward their expansion and consolidation. Another subject covered in their talks was the seventh nonaligned movement summit. Malmierca referred specifically to Fidel Castro's report regarding the ominous economic and social situation confronting Third World countries. Felipe Gonzalez and Isidoro Malmierca expressed their hopes that a way will be found to achieve a negotiated political settlement in Central America, particularly in El Salvador.

In his first day of work, Malmierca visited the Spanish parliament and met with leaders of both houses. The Cuban foreign minister was also interviewed by Spanish television reporters. He told them that without peace there will be no development and without development there will be no lasting peace in the world.

Malmierca is the guest of Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran.

Meets Spanish Legislators

FL181805 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1341 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Madrid--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca was received by Spanish deputies and senators as well as by the members of the foreign relations committees of both houses and of the committee on Spanish-American affairs.

Malmierca asserted that there are many points of agreement where Cuba and Spain can cooperate. He stressed that for the first time in history a Cuban foreign minister is meeting with the senate and congress of Spain.

Malmierca said he considered an expansion of relations between the two countries as positive and stressed that conditions are right for a consolidation of bilateral cooperation. The Cuban foreign minister said that Spain is very close to Latin America and the opportunity to develop its ties with Latin American cannot be compared to that of other countries.

CSO: 3248/601

U.S. SAID TO CHANGE TUNE AFTER NONALIGNED SUMMIT

FL151749 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1236 GMT 15 Mar 83

[International commentary by Miguel Toirac from the staff of the REVISTA DE LA MANANA program and Javier Rodriguez from the PRENSA LATINA staff--live]

[Text] [Toirac] Good morning friends. Good morning Javier. Today's international commentary is on certain U.S. government statements attacking the final declaration of the seventh nonaligned countries summit because of the criticism in that document of U.S. policy regarding the Central American and Caribbean areas.

Remarks by a U.S. State Department spokesman and certain situations will be analyzed in our commentary.

[Rodriguez] I believe, Toirac, that the U.S. reaction against the final agreements of the seventh summit of chiefs of states and governments of nonaligned countries held in New Delhi recently is a kind of public confession of the United States' defeat in its maneuvers against the movement. This reaction also shows the strength of the nonaligned final agreements.

U.S. State Department spokesman Alan Romberg made certain statements. Among other things, he said that the final declaration is negative, deplorable and unfair to the United States. He even spoke of manipulations by radical elements within the movement.

[Toirac] Excuse me Javier. He even said that the declaration did not reflect the principles of nonalignment. We'd have to see what they understand by these principles.

[Rodriguez] Yes, they are becoming defenders of the nonaligned principles. Imagine, the U.S. Government is becoming a defender of nonaligned principles. He said that they will continue to defend the principles of nonalignment and striving for a better application of these principles in the future. This statement is interesting because the United States is using a language that is different from that used at the beginning of the New Delhi summit.

You may recall that back then and even during the meeting, a large publicity campaign by U.S. spokesmen and media got underway, noting that the movement

was going to become divided and that when certain issues which were on the New Delhi agenda were discussed there would be a public division which would cause the meeting to fail. They also said that the movement was to take a turn to new paths, styles and guidelines. All in all, they were involved in a large campaign against the movement, the original principles of the movement, our President Fidel Castro and even India. All this occurred during the summit's initial stage. I recall that President Ronald Reagan even sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is now the chairman of the nonaligned movement, in which he boasted about his (?support) for the principles of non-alignment. In this letter, he said that he believed the new paths the movement would take would benefit the future of the nonaligned. In other words, all the initial phrases and language have changed now. Now it just happens that the movement has issued an incorrect declaration which the United States rejects because it feels it is unfair. This means that the attacks against the non-aligned movement will increase. What does this mean? Well, simply that its hopes to divide the movement vanished because the movement emerged stronger than ever from the seventh nonaligned countries summit. This also means that the plans which the state department and the White House had carefully prepared for the summit failed.

[Toirac] They even said, Javier, that the New Delhi document is biased and controversial. They are referring, of course, to the repeated calls made in Latin American chapter of the document asking the United States to stop hindering and curbing the various proposals and negotiations existing in the Central American and Caribbean area. As we all know, the United States has tried to stop these proposals and even to increase its already large military aid to regimes like El Salvador, Guatemala and so forth. It is even trying to increase this aid. We all know how it is trying to obstruct other peace proposals and negotiations in the area. All this is included in the final declaration approved by a consensus of more than 100 countries and 60 chiefs of state. For this reason, the United States is saying that it is a biased and controversial document. It calls it biased and controversial because it criticizes the warmongering and militaristic policy which is exacerbating the critical situation in Central America in particular and the world in general.

[Rodriguez] What occurred in New Delhi is that the United States was seated on the defendant's bench because this was the place it deserved. It was seated there because of its warmongering policy, the exploitation it carries out in underdeveloped countries and because the nonaligned countries denounced its ties with racism, zionism and colonialism. These are the reasons why the United States, logically, does not like the final declaration. These are the reasons why it changed its language in regard to the nonaligned and has now proceeded to a direct attack on the movement. These are the reasons for this change in policy.

[Toirac] We must also note, Javier, that even from the time of the deliberations of the meeting of experts and the meeting of foreign ministers in New Delhi it was being predicted that an attack on the United States would be one of the main issues for discussion because of the new, different and varied turns that President Reagan's threats against Central America and the Caribbean had taken. We recently heard his statements in regard to an increase in the hackneyed military aid.

[Rodriguez] That just shows how the final declaration and the nonaligned countries were right. This is proven with Reagan's recent announcement requesting an ostensible increase in military aid for the Salvadoran regime. The U.S. president devotes millions of dollars to strengthen unpopular regimes in Central America and to support Somozist gangs operating against Nicaragua from Honduras. A total of \$20 million is devoted to this end and another \$110 million has been requested to continue supporting what can almost be called a massive extermination of the Salvadoran people in an effort to keep the dictatorship in power. But this dictatorship is receiving harsh blows from the revolutionaries and guerrillas.

In other words, this U.S. attitude which became evident in the days of the summit only served to confirm that the nonaligned countries are right in directly accusing the United States.

However, there is something else I'd like to add: I want to recall the news conference held by Gandhi at the end of the summit. At this conference, she noted that the prophets who predicted a failure for the seventh summit were wrong, stressing that the meeting was a success. I think she clearly alluded to those who had, in previous days, carried out this campaign saying that the movement would be divided and would emerge very weak from the seventh summit.

[Toirac] But it was just the contrary, Javier. If there should be one country condemned in the world, it must be the United States for the various tensions it maintains not only in the Central American and Caribbean area, but in other parts of the world. This is easily proven by the repeated U.S. insistence to deploy Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe. This action has already been rejected by the European peoples who have already gone through two world wars and are afraid of a third one because it will be a disaster for humankind. There are tensions in other areas such as the Middle East, Africa, Asia and other parts of the world and the U.S. presence is in all these places.

Consequently, if one had to be accused of promoting an arms build up, a cold war and the elimination of the peoples it would have to be the U.S. Government.

According to a poll recently conducted in the United States, 70 percent of Americans feel that Reagan is responsible for the bad situation in the country's foreign affairs.

[Rodriguez] Yes, they are responsible for the tension and their military presence in various parts of the world, even against the will of certain peoples and governments, further illustrates their foreign policy.

However, an important factor must be noted: The paths of the nonaligned movement and imperialism are truly very different. For this reason, we are not surprised by the violent U.S. reaction against the nonaligned agreements. The truth is imperialism opposes the people and the nonaligned defends the people's rights to certain vital and important things such as peace, disarmament, co-operation and economic development.

[Toirac] We agree on that and with it we conclude this international commentary.

CSO: 3248/600

NEW DELHI SUMMIT DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTED

PA151851 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Report from New Delhi by Pedro Martinez Pirez]

[Text] The Panamanian people's desire for total sovereignty has received firm support from the recently concluded nonaligned conference of chiefs of state or government. This is confirmed in the final declaration that was approved in New Delhi on Saturday.

The conference viewed with satisfaction the fact that the 1977 Panama Canal treaties signed by Panama and the United States and known as the Torrijos-Carter treaties went into effect on 1 October 1979. The document stated that the treaties guarantee the effective exercise of Panama's sovereignty over all its national territory through a process of returning to Panama sovereignty over the areas previously known under the name of canal zone and through the Panamanians' increasing participation in the administration and defense of the canal, culminating on 31 December 1999 with the disappearance of all traces of colonialism in that Latin American country.

The nonaligned chiefs of state or government noted with satisfaction that the phases of this process are being fulfilled. Nevertheless, they expressed concern over U.S. persistence in applying policies and practices in the occupied area that make difficult the faithful fulfillment of the Panama Canal treaties. The New Delhi conference especially criticized the establishment of discriminatory wage scales and law 9670 of the U.S. Congress, which are incompatible with and a violation of the treaties. Due to this, the seventh summit confirmed its solidarity with the Panamanian people and government and advocated that the United States stop all policies and practices that might interfere with the total fulfillment of the treaties and supported absolute respect for the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal. The leaders of four continents who met at the New Delhi summit decided to reiterate their call to all countries of the world to adhere to the protocol of the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal with due respect for Panama's sovereignty and the universal principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states.

The final declaration of the seventh summit not only criticized the United States with regard to its attitude toward Panama; U.S. imperialism was harshly criticized throughout the section referring to Latin America, as well as those on other regions of the world. The nonaligned movement voiced its criticism

on the Malvinas situation; the maintenance of colonial domination in Puerto Rico; the aggressions, provocations and blockades against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada; the maintenance of military bases in the region, especially in the Cuban territory of Guantanamo; and the Central American crisis, particularly in El Salvador. The nonaligned movement also condemned the joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers that were openly directed against the Sandinist Government.

That is why the United States was interested in dividing the nonaligned movement and in trying to get the New Delhi summit to waste its time on the discussion of secondary subjects. In the political and economic declarations, in the special resolutions and in the New Delhi declaration, the main object of accusations is the U.S. imperialist government. Therefore, it is valid for it to be considered the main enemy of the nonaligned countries movement.

CSO: 3248/600

DEATH OF SALVADORAN MARIANELA GARCIA DISCUSSED

PA191741 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Mar 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Salvadoran Army customarily murders defenseless civilian townspeople en masse. The dictatorship's military bulletins later report the victims as guerrillas killed in combat. Cuban Dictator Fulgencio Batista used the same trick during the last war of liberation in our country, which was led by Fidel Castro. Anastasio Somoza also used that trick in Nicaragua.

This is a tactic which repressive armies always use in an attempt to compensate for defeat in the eyes of the local and international public. To the oligarchies and the top commands, it is truly shameful that the so-called national armies of the Latin American countries, should be dealt constant military setbacks by forces that are greatly inferior in men and weaponry. Hence, every time they kill a woman, child or an elderly citizen, they report them as guerrillas killed in combat.

The genocidal Salvadoran Army has taken this practice to its extreme. Thus, every day dozens of these guerrillas killed in combat are reported. This happened recently in Cuscatlan Department. The Salvadoran News Agency, NOTISAL, reported that the army forces had killed dozens of defenseless civilians in La Bermuda Canton. It reported that the massacre occurred after the regime's troops had tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the FMLN rebels from their positions on nearby Guazara Hill.

The source reported that the soldiers, most of whom were members of the special Atlacatl Battalion which was trained in the United States, raped women and young girls, murdered people indiscriminately and en masse and looted the city of La Bermuda, setting fire to the houses.

In the past few days, the army repression has intensified in Cuscatlan, where rebel detachments have inflicted 14 casualties and considerable property losses on the army. On Monday, Marianela Garcia Villas, president of the human rights commission of El Salvador, was killed. She had returned to El Salvador only a month ago, after a lengthy period of forced exile in Mexico, where she had had to take refuge after having received death threats from Salvadoran paramilitary organizations.

The regime said that Marianela Garcia Villas died during a clash between the guerrillas and the army. The Salvadoran human rights commission, the Pax Christi International Catholic Movement and the (?Leglio Bazoff) foundation of Italy, officially denied that report.

The regime has again tried to deny its responsibility in the murder of Marianela Garcia Villas, but the Salvadoran dictatorship's manipulation of its propaganda fools no one. The methods being employed to stay in power are known to everyone. Neither repression nor massive U.S. military aid will stop the regime's fall. Recent developments in the current war, in which FMLN rebels constantly attack and defeat the army, confirm this.

CSO: 3248/600

BRIEFS

MONTANE MEETS UN OFFICIAL--Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, today met with (James Jonath), under secretary general of the United Nations and secretary of the second world conference to fight racism and racial discrimination. During the talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, matters dealing with preparations for that meeting, scheduled to be held in Geneva next October, and topics of the agenda were discussed. The chief of the Central Committee foreign relations general department voiced Cuba's willingness to continue to work for the good development of the conference. For his part, (James Jonath) expressed gratitude for the Cuban people's hospitality and satisfaction for the talks held during his stay in our country. [Text] [FL182215 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2107 GMT 18 Mar 83]

ROUNDTABLE ON U.S.--"The United States in the 1980's," an international round-table being held at the Havana convention palace, dedicated its second day of work to the analysis of reports on the Ronald Reagan government's economic and foreign policy. (Mario Hernandez) of Cuba and (D. M. Kudrov) of the USSR's Institute of the United States presented the bare facts--with figures and eloquent data--on how U.S. investment in the war industry subtracts large amounts of funds from social welfare programs and generates fewer jobs that could be created were these funds used in other production areas. (Philip Bayler), a U.S. investigator, and Cuban (Carlos Arzugaray) analyzed Ronald Reagan's foreign policy which, based on arrogance and aggression, is intended for U.S. recovery of a world hegemony it has already lost and which only would benefit the great monopolistic interests. The roundtable, "the United States in the 1980's," with the participation of specialists from some seven countries, will end on Wednesday with a debate on U.S. policy toward Latin America. John Fercn, head of the U.S. interests office in Cuba, will be present at the event. [Text] [PA160425 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 83]

MPSP HAILS CASTRO SPEECH--On behalf of the Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP], its president, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and of the Council of State, has sent a letter to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, which reads as follows: The Cuban MPSP hails and fully supports your accurate and elucidating speech at the seventh nonaligned summit. Your pronouncements constitute a courageous denunciation of those who threaten peace, a condemnation of the nuclear war, of the arms race, of the enormous investments of resources in the production of nuclear, chemical, biological arms and others for the mass extermination of

humanity. With humane reason you advocate for the use of those resources in solving the serious problems of unemployment, hunger and poverty affecting a large part of the world population and, at the same time, advocate for the solution of conflicts between nations, not through armed confrontation but through political negotiation. In closing, it states: We believe that your speech from the seventh nonaligned summit's podium constitutes a stimulating encouragement for those struggling for peace and will contribute to raise still more the level of struggle and unity in defense of peace and life. [Text] [FL160047 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 83]

WOMEN'S MESSAGE TO CASTRO--Today, amid the commemoration of International Women's Day each Cuban woman is focusing her attention on New Delhi where you are once again raising the banner of our socialist revolution to the highest levels. Receive, with the healthy pride that all Cuban women feel because of your impressive speech and participation in that important event, our message of admiration and unlimited affection, our fraternal greeting and the wish to have you back in our land soon. [Applause] We support each of your statements and are willing, as usual, to carry out every task you deem necessary in this difficult and essential struggle whose objectives you have described so magnificently. [Signed] Federation of Cuban Women [Applause] [Text] [Message addressed to Cuban President Fidel Castro in New Delhi read by Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, during the national ceremony to commemorate International Women's Day at Havana's Lazaro Pena Auditorium--live] [FL091640 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0227 GMT 9 Mar 83]

ESPIN MEETS WOMEN'S DELEGATIONS--Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has received and talked with Ghanaian and Palestinian delegations from women's organizations. The Ghanaian women's delegation is headed by (Nana) Rawlings, the wife of the president of that African country, Jerry Rawlings. The Palestinian delegation is headed by (Suhan El), member of the [PLO] Executive Council and secretary of foreign affairs of the Union of Palestinian Women. During their meeting, Vilma Espin expressed interest over the results of their visit to Cuba where they learned about the operation of the FMC through discussions with FMC leaders from different areas of the country. [Text] [FL111550 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 83]

CULTURE MINISTER IN YUGOSLAVIA--Armando Hart Dávalos, member of the party Politburo and minister of culture, has arrived in Yugoslavia on an official visit. Hart was received by Miljenko Zrelec, director of the Federal Institute for International Scientific, Educational-Cultural and Technical Cooperation With Other Countries. Hart and Zrelec will sign a plan for bilateral cooperation in that field for the years 1983-1985. During their first talks, Hart and Zrelec said there were ample prospects for the development of cultural ties and interests of the two peoples and relations between the two states. [Text] [FL181315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83]

GRENADA FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT--Grenada Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman has arrived in Havana from New Delhi, where he participated with his country's delegation in the nonaligned summit meeting in the Indian capital. Whiteman was welcomed at Jose Marti International Airport by Jose Raul Viera, first vice foreign minister, and Nicolas Rodriguez, director for Latin American and Caribbean regional policies. [Text] [PA171636 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 83]

CSO: 3248/600

SALVADORAN CP OFFICIAL ON GUERRILLA MILITARY STRATEGY, WORLD ROLE

Moscow VOPROSY ISTORII KPSS in Russian No 1, Jan 83 pp 41-50

[Article by Ruben Sanchez, member of the Salvadoran Communist Party Central Committee Political Commission: "Our Way to Freedom, Democracy and Social Justice"]

[Text] The democratic and revolutionary movement of the masses, which has frustrated all the dictatorship's attempts to put an end to it by both political and repressive methods, has grown and broadened in El Salvador since the 1960's. The junta used every political resource possible to remain in power through reliance on the population, ~~but~~ these attempts were brought to nothing by our people, who are led by the democratic and revolutionary organizations. There remained to the Salvadoran military dictatorship, the oligarchy and the fasci~~s~~ no other way of retaining power other than unleashing war against the people. They have understood that the sole possibility of saving themselves is to inflict a military defeat on the democratic and revolutionary forces, the more so in that reaction lost the political clashes. The views and interests of the most aggressive circles of the United States and the Salvadoran oligarchy concurred here.

The socioeconomic and political conflicts and the antagonism between the revolutionary classes on the one hand and imperialism and the oligarchy on the other led to the emergence of a revolutionary situation in El Salvador. Given favorable objective conditions, particular significance for the development and victory of the revolution is attached to the subjective factor, that is, as V.I. Lenin said, "the capacity of the revolutionary CLASS [boldface] for revolutionary mass actions STRONG [boldface] enough to break (or fragment) the old government, which will never, even in the era of crises, 'fall' if it is not 'knocked off'."* The role of conscious vanguard of the revolutionary masses, however, may be performed only by a party of the new type, whose main strength lies in close ties to the masses.

Proceeding from these general characteristics of revolution, the seventh congress of El Salvador's communists stated: "...A new revolutionary historical stage has begun in El Salvador. And revolution will turn from a possibility into a victorious reality if we have a vanguard which will chart and implement the correct line, a vanguard capable of uniting and resolutely leading to victory the progressive social forces, primarily the broad working people's masses.

*V.I. Lenin, "Complete Works," vol 26, p 219.

However, this historical stage could also lead to the former path--that of dependent capitalism--being foisted on the country. Such a possibility is also real, and only revolution can avert it."

The clash between the dictatorship and democracy and between the supporters of dependence on the United States and the freedom fighters--this is what has been the main content of the recent years.

The revolutionary people's war against the pro-American puppet regime in El Salvador is developing under very difficult international conditions. The Reagan administration is pursuing a policy corresponding to the interests of the most reactionary and aggressive forces of American imperialism. At the same time the readiness of the most reactionary Latin American forces to come to the assistance of Salvadoran reaction can be observed also. The local oligarchy and the fascists and also American imperialism barred to the Salvadoran people the peaceful paths to freedom and democracy and the establishment of their own sovereignty as an independent nation.

Only one path remained--armed struggle. Proceeding from Lenin's proposition on the possibility of the use of the most varied forms of struggle* and aware of the "need for fearless and ruthless armed struggle,"** we embarked on this path convinced that only with the force of arms would we be able to do away with the rotten dictatorship. But in order to achieve this we had to switch from the coordination of political efforts to the organization and coordination of military operations nationally. The heads of the Salvadoran Communist Party adopted at the seventh congress in April 1970 say: "In order to do away with present-day reaction a higher revolutionary organization and a more capable leadership and the more active coordination of efforts nationally and internationally of those waging the struggle in the masses are needed even in backward countries."

We set ourselves the goal of leading the people to a decisive engagement with the dictatorship's military apparatus and smashing it. This sphere of activity was unfamiliar to us. We learned about it in practice, and fast. The first revolutionary armed groups appeared at the start of the 1970's. In order to smash the dictatorship it was necessary to switch from initial steps to the formation of the military revolutionary organization of the population and for us ourselves to become a military force operating together with the masses.

For many years the forces of the left were fragmented. The Communist Party of El Salvador regarded their unity as a priority task and struggled to accomplish it. Finally, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDF)--a broad coalition of El Salvador's patriotic forces uniting a number of political parties, mass organizations of city and countryside, the main trade union centers, representatives of the progressive intelligentsia and the student body, ecclesiastical figures, certain entrepreneurial organizations and the democratic military--was created in April 1980. Thus a broad democratic front against imperialism and oligarchy emerged.

*See V.I. Lenin, "Complete Works," vol 14, pp 1-12.

**Ibid., vol 13, pp 371-372.

Following this, in May 1980 five revolutionary military-political organizations --the Salvadoran Communist Party, the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces, the Revolutionary People's Army, National Resistance and the Revolutionary Central American Workers Party--formed the Joint Revolutionary Leadership (JRL).

The program of the forces of the left sets as its immediate goal the ouster of the reactionary regime, the creation of a revolutionary-democratic government and the implementation of profound sociopolitical transformations. In the international arena the revolutionary-democratic government would pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence and nonalignment.

The junta's forces began an offensive against the patriots in May 1980. In the course of the struggle the armed formations of the organizations incorporated in the JRL were united, and in October of the same year the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was created, the command of which had taken the decision by the start of 1981 to switch from the defensive to the offensive.

Combat operations developed throughout the territory of the country, and there was a switch from methods of guerrilla struggle to regular military operations. The junta's troops have attempted to organize a counteroffensive many times, but without success. The FMLN detachments have accumulated great combat experience, and their ranks have grown and strengthened.

I

Every army must necessarily have a dependable rear for the soldiers and officers to rest, the treatment of the wounded, the training of regular personnel and reinforcement. "To wage war PROPERLY [boldface] a strong organized rear is essential," V.I. Lenin pointed out. "The best army and the people most devoted to the cause of the revolution will be wiped out by the enemy immediately if they are not sufficiently armed, supplied with food and trained. This is clear enough not to require explanation."*

The FMLN had for this purpose to have at its disposal a certain zone on the territory of El Salvador itself. It was no easy task, however, the revolutionary forces had to accomplish it, come what may. For waging successful armed struggle to oust the dictatorship it was necessary to secure for itself a rear and for this to wrest part of the territory from the enemy and deploy revolutionary regular units, guerrilla subunits and militia detachments there.

The country's geographical conditions are not conducive to waging guerrilla warfare for we have no mountain chains or big hills in general. Population density is very high--250 persons per square kilometer, and in certain areas twice that number. At the same time the dictatorship's regular forces number 20,000 soldiers and officers, to whom should be added a further 30,000 men united in reactionary paramilitary organizations, which, as a whole, increases the strength of the enemy armed formations to 50,000 men. Comparing this number with the area of the country--21,000 square kilometers--we see that there are two armed defenders of the reactionary regime per square kilometer.

*V.I. Lenin, "Complete Works," vol 35, p 408.

The country has 15 infantry garrisons and more than 8 auxiliary military bases. Mention should be made in this connection of the dense network of good roads making it possible to reach any point quickly. The two main highways crossing the central part of the country are the Pan-American Highway linking El Salvador with Guatemala and Honduras and the Coastal Highway, which serves for communications between the rural and industrial areas of the south of the country. Many highways and other roads connecting practically all the centers of population and, consequently, the military garrisons extend from the two main transport arteries. The troop strength, the strategically convenient location of the military garrisons and the good surface communication routes enable the army to rapidly concentrate forces in any zone of the country.

Without the creation and consolidation of a rear of the revolutionary forces we could not have given serious thought either to waging a revolutionary people's war and deployment of an army or, even less, to inflicting military blows on the enemy. For this purpose we had to win from the enemy and wrest from his military-political control a certain physical space, and this we did. A strategic success of the FMLN in January 1981 was the creation and reinforcement of our rear. We thereby ended the enemy's total control of Salvadoran territory.

However, for the people's victorious struggle their revolutionary armed forces had to seize the military initiative. Following the January (1981) battles, FMLN detachments withdrew to their camps, which the dictatorship took advantage of to reinforce the repressive army with people and arms. It has resorted increasingly openly to assistance from the Reagan administration for an offensive against the guerrilla bases in order to destroy them. Thus it undertook large-scale offensive operations against areas where FMLN detachments were deployed with the use of all ground, air and naval forces and with the direct participation of American officers. Despite their broad sweep, these operations were unsuccessful. Nonetheless, the situation for the revolution was difficult inasmuch as it prevented our armed forces developing and strengthening at the rapid pace necessary for defeating the dictatorship and achieving the higher level of military organization of the people's masses. In resisting the junta's operations to destroy the guerrilla bases we acquired great experience of waging defensive battles, but very little experience of offensive battles. This shortcoming had to be made good. Our summer campaign of 1981, which pursued both military and political goals, corresponded to precisely this goal.

Comrade Shafik Jorge Handal, general secretary of the Salvadoran Communist Party Central Committee, has said that it is necessary first of all to determine the concrete results of this very important campaign. It began immediately after the strong offensive of the junta's forces against our bases on the San Vicente volcano, on San Pedro hill and in Chalatenango. Then in the very process of the development of this campaign followed a no less powerful offensive of the dictatorship's troops against the Guazapa region; they attempted to capture it five times, but unsuccessfully--our fighters courageously repulsed the onslaught of the enemy's superior forces.

The enemy's offensive operations increased in strength and came one after another--with the use of heavy artillery, aviation and toxic substances banned

On 7 December 1981 more than 10 percent of the junta's regular forces were thrown against our base situated in the northeast of the country--Morazan Province. The troops had more than 60 percent of all available artillery and aviation. In response to this operation of the junta we initiated coordinated operations. The enemy was forced to ease the pressure insofar as he was being attacked in his own rear. In addition, as a result of the revolutionary forces' counterattacks in neighboring provinces the enemy sustained even greater losses. On 17 December the troops of the dictatorship left this region, virtually acknowledging their defeat. Had we not held the initiative, we would not have achieved this. Our troops occupied the Guacamaya and [Khoayatike] centers of population, guerrilla detachments carried out raids against the cities of San Miguel and Usulutan, the country's third and fourth most important cities respectively, and also ambushes were set up on the Coastal and Pan-American highways. Thus began a new FMLN offensive, which did not let up for a single day. Crushing blows were inflicted on the troops of the dictatorship in the region of San Fernando--a settlement in the north of the country in Chalatenango Province--and in the area of the settlement of [Seybit] in Usulutan Province. Possession of the military initiative is now enabling us to carry out large-scale acts of sabotage and also with the aid of diversionary groups inflict devastating blows, as was the case in August 1981 at the time of a raid on the country's main police barracks, during which the political directorate--a body which specialized in combating the people's movement--was destroyed by powerful explosive charges. The high combat readiness also enabled us on 14 October to blow up the strategically significant Golden Bridge and to carry out on 26 January 1982 a successful attack on the main government air base, as a result of which 70 percent of the materiel was put out of action. Following these operations, the FMLN increased the pressure on all fronts. Enemy subunits in the Trinidad and Corinto centers of population were destroyed here, sabotage was stepped up and ambushes were set in the cities of San Salvador, Santa Ana and elsewhere and new raids on garrisons in the cities of [Tanakatepeke], San Vicente and Usulutan were carried out also. The guerrillas held out in the city of Usulutan for a week. Our military operations were accompanied by popular uprisings, and the masses joined in the struggle, built barricades, dug trenches, supplied the guerrillas with food and reported to them on the movements of the enemy troops.

Thus the combat initiative in the war switched to the revolutionary forces.

The United States' attempts to stabilize the domestic political situation in El Salvador with the aid of elections to the Constituent Assembly and on this basis create a "legitimate" government failed. The formation following the elections of a "national unity" government headed by Interim President Alvado Magana is rent by internal conflicts. The representatives of the Christian Democratic Party headed by N. Duarte, former head of the junta, in which the United States had put its hopes, suffered a defeat at the elections and hold secondary positions in the government. At the same time, however, the National Republic Alliance (ARENA) headed by the profascist d'Abuisson and the National Reconciliation Party (PNR), which expresses the interests of the major latifundists and the oligarchy, occupied the key positions in the government. In this connection the government refused to implement the agrarian reform which had earlier been extensively propagandized by the junta and the U.S. Administration; repression, against Christian Democrats supporting the implementation of

modest reforms included, was stepped up; and punitive expeditions against the civilian population in the provinces captured by the guerrilla movement are being organized. All these actions of the reactionary regime are leading to an exacerbation of the situation and the further polarization of forces in the country.

The middle strata of the population of the capital and other cities of the country, which constituted the bulk of the voters at the elections, are dissatisfied with the policy of the Magana government. Bishops of El Salvador's Catholic Church, who perceived the Constituent Assembly elections and the creation of the "national unity" government enthusiastically, are demanding respect for human rights, an end to the repression and a political solution of the El Salvador crisis. The opinion concerning the need for a start to negotiations with the insurgents is being asserted among the "young officers" (the supporters of Colonel Majano who carried out a coup d'etat in October 1979) of the Salvadoran Army.

The new regime announced for all to hear that it intends to wipe out the guerrillas in a matter of weeks. But it has all been the other way around. A few days after the elections, FMLN armed forces inflicted on government troops the strongest blows of the whole time of the struggle in El Salvador. The biggest quantity of weapons was captured from the enemy.

An offensive of the regime's troops in which more than 10,000 soldiers and officers participated also ended in failure. And among these troops, furthermore, were special brigades which had undergone training in the United States. Embittered by the defeats, which were following one after the other, the Salvadoran military carried out, as always, "successful" punitive operations against the peaceful population. And the blood of totally innocent peaceful inhabitants was again spilled. The Magana government has shown to the whole world the true makeup of its fascist regime, which with redoubled force is continuing the policy of genocide against its own people.

Despite the military successes of and broad support for the people's masses, the FMLN-RDF leadership, endeavoring to put an end to the bloody war and concerned for the recovery of the national economy, which has suffered severely from the protracted war, again proposed to the new rulers of El Salvador a start on peaceful negotiations.

In the latter half of October 1982 the insurgents conveyed to the government a document which as a first step on the way to a political settlement proposed "a start in the immediate future on direct dialogue between the FMLN-RDF on the one hand and the government, army and Constituent Assembly on the other." The purpose of this political step by the front's leadership is to neutralize the aggressive intentions of the Reagan administration in respect of El Salvador and prevent the attempts of imperialism and reaction to "regionalize" the struggle against the liberation movement, that is, drag other countries into it. The front's goal is an end to the civil war, which is supported by the Salvadoran people. Thus the insurgents' new proposal is aimed not only at the achievement of a political settlement of the El Salvador crisis but also at a reduction in tension throughout the Central America region.

The proposal put forward by the insurgents is encountering opposition from the most reactionary forces in the government and the army, which, relying on U.S. support, are continuing to put their faith in military methods of a solution of the crisis.

Abiding by its aggressive policy, the Reagan administration also supports a military solution of the El Salvador crisis, with the aid, possibly, of the direct participation of the Honduran Army in military operations against the Salvadoran guerrillas. It is demanding that the Salvadoran guerrillas "change their attitude toward the use of armed violence (read: disarm--R.S.) and assume a commitment to the country's democratization." However, the front's proposal is supported in certain circles of the Democratic and Republican parties, by the governments of a number of Latin American countries (Mexico, Venezuela, Panama) and the Socialist International.

At the same time the FMLN leadership is also taking certain steps to strengthen its armed forces, which are continuing to carry out successful military operations.

Thus the Salvadoran people are faced with a stubborn and difficult struggle for the victory of the popular-democratic revolution.

In the course of 1982 the army of the dictatorship made great, but unsuccessful efforts to again seize the military initiative. In June 1982 alone the patriots' armed detachments put out of action several hundred soldiers and officers of the puppet army and destroyed four helicopters and much other military equipment. In particular, FMLN fighters successfully warded off an offensive of government forces in Chalatenango Province, despite the fact that crack punitive detachments and American equipment, including A-37 Dragonfly aircraft, participated in the battles. Success accompanied the patriots in many other engagements also.

The repressive army is venting its anger for the failures in battles on the peaceful population. In August 1982 it barbarically bombed and shelled many regions of Cuscatlan Province. Punitive operations accompanied by reprisals, malicious insults and mass arrests of "suspects" are carried out regularly.

The army itself, like the entire dictatorial regime, is holding out only thanks to the generous assistance from the Reagan administration. Of the total volume of military supplies to the Latin American countries, one-third is intended for the El Salvador regime.

II

The question arises: to what end is the United States interfering in El Salvador's internal affairs? Reagan has declared for all to hear that this is being done to defend freedom and democracy on the American continent and to ward off Soviet-Cuban interference. I would like in this connection to dwell in somewhat more detail on this question and to reveal the real reasons for the United States' aggressive actions.

There is one incontrovertible fact: the general crisis of capitalism as a world system has also embraced American imperialism, as a result of which its prestige and authority in the world have been seriously undermined. The international situation has changed. However, despite these changes, American imperialists continue to regard peoples and states from a great-power viewpoint. They wish, as before, to plunder their natural resources, subordinate them to their interests and suppress the liberation struggle and any aspiration to freedom and sovereignty. The Seventh Salvadoran Communist Party Congress observed that for the United States the entire Third World has since World War II been an arena of frontal struggle, including direct military aggression against progressive movements and regimes, and a zone where strong American support has always been on the side of the most reactionary forces and dictatorships. However, the Third World is now shaking off imperialist domination. Latin America has changed also. Socialist Cuba and liberated Nicaragua--two victorious revolutions--exist today; there is democratic and anti-imperialist Grenada; and the Panamanian people's struggle for the restoration of national sovereignty over the Panama Canal in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties is developing.

On taking office Reagan set as a goal the restoration to U.S. imperialism of its role of dictator which it had performed previously. He is hoping to achieve this by directly challenging the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries, suppressing the revolutionary and liberation movement in Third World countries and solving the problems with his imperialist allies with the aid of a policy of diktat.

Pursuing precisely this hegemonist goal--controlling and ordering the fate of all peoples and states in the world--Reagan is attempting to impose his will on the socialist community and the Third World with the aid of the military threat.

Latin America today is a continent in flames. The movement of the people's masses has put imperialism and all reactionary forces on the American continent, which in their endeavor to hold on to power are casting aside bourgeois democratic traditions and implanting tyrannical and fascist regimes, in a critical position. Still fresh are the examples of Chile and Uruguay--countries which were considered the most democratic in Latin America--where the above-mentioned traditions of bourgeois democracy have been ruthlessly trampled for the sake of the preservation of the reactionary power of the oligarchy and pro-imperialist circles. The Bolivian people's resolve to establish in their country a democratic system of a pluralist nature by way of elections also initially encountered the cruel resistance of Bolivian reaction and imperialism. We are very closely acquainted with the people's movement in Ecuador, which is of a distinctly anti-imperialist thrust. Similar phenomena can be observed in Venezuela, Peru and Colombia. Adding to this the successes of the Guatemalan people's revolutionary struggle, we obtain a graphic picture of events on the continent, which is characterized by an intensification of the struggle against imperialism and the local oligarchy.

The Reagan administration intends to respond to the democratic revolutions and national liberation movement in the Third World with military violence in order to forestall the advance of the democratic, anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces. It has to suppress this movement to restore the confidence of its imperialist allies, on whose support it is counting in its

confrontation with the socialist community. And Reagan has intended to demonstrate this political course to other imperialist countries as being promising precisely in the example of El Salvador, sure of achieving rapid and easy success.

The U.S. Administration headed by Carter even made the decision concerning military support for the El Salvador rulers and active participation in suppression of the "armed rebellion," that is, in the war unleashed against our people. Military advisers and weapons were sent to El Salvador at that time. Reagan has increased military and economic assistance considerably and switched to direct and unconcealed intervention. Now the "hawks" in the U.S. Administration have given full rein to their hegemonist aspirations aimed against El Salvador and the Third World countries.

If Reagan's policy in El Salvador is considered a part of his policy in respect of Third World countries in general, our democratic and revolutionary forces have a further task besides the need to put an end to the more than half a century of reactionary dictatorship. We must fulfill the international mission of fighters for liberation for the sake of peoples of the Third World--peoples struggling for their freedom, independence and sovereignty. The struggle for a change of the old orders in our country is closely connected with the struggle being waged by Third World countries and with the defense of peace in the region and throughout the world.

In this heroic struggle for a bright future and for the right to dispose of their own fate there are no big and small peoples. Imperialism and world reaction give no thought to the fact that El Salvador is one of the continent's smallest countries. They are concerned only by the fact that a reactionary pro-imperialist power has been weakened there and that it needs to be defended. They could also in equal fashion treat any other country, regardless of its size and economic or strategic significance from the military viewpoint. The assistant U.S. secretary of state for Latin American affairs recently declared that the future of Central America is being decided in El Salvador. Reactionaries wish to stifle the revolution in El Salvador, but cannot. The people have arisen in their way. The fascists and American imperialists have set themselves the goal of doing away with the revolutionary and democratic forces. However, for this it is necessary to do away with the people, and this is impossible. If injustice exists and if a people are not free and sovereign, they themselves are the ideological source of the struggle. This was proven by the people's masses 50 years ago, on 22 January 1932, at the time of the worker-peasant uprising, in the course of which 30,000 people died for freedom; it is being corroborated today by the armed people and their vanguard--the FMLN. This is the reason for the weakness of the power of reaction in El Salvador and the reason for the failure of Reagan's policy.

We can state firmly and confidently, proceeding from the successes scored in the battles, that we have frustrated Reagan's military plans. The first defeats were incurred by his puppets in the summer of 1981. Not long before this leaders of the U.S. State Department were declaring that the situation in El Salvador was fully under control and that the crushing of the guerrillas was just a matter of time. If one compares what Western papers were writing prior

to July 1981 and what they are writing now, the big difference in the content of the information and the articles and commentaries is obvious. In addition, the opinions and evaluations previously expressed by the governments of European countries and America and their official representatives are entirely different from those which they are expressing today.

It has to be emphasized that the Salvadoran patriots' struggle is enjoying increasingly extensive international support. Whereas earlier solidarity with the Salvadoran people occurred mainly in the sphere of defense of human rights, as of August international solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle has gone beyond the framework of the defense of human rights and has been characterized by support for speeches advocating a political solution of the problem, for the achievement of which the RDF and FMLN have been calling persistently for such a long time. There was a loud resonance under these new conditions to the Franco-Mexican statement, which reflects the position of international public opinion: the policy of compulsion being pursued by the United States serves no purpose and should not be supported and for a positive solution of the El Salvador conflict it is necessary to take the route of a political settlement.

This explains many international acts, and the profound differences in the approach to foreign policy in respect of El Salvador and Central America as a whole are rooted here.

In its manifesto to the Salvadoran people and all peoples of the world of 20 December 1981 the FMLN Supreme Command stated this phenomenon thus: "The Salvadoran people's heroic struggle against the criminal Christian Democratic junta is admired by the whole world and has won recognition, respect and solidarity among all peace-loving and freedom-loving peoples on all continents. El Salvador today is a synonym for stanchness, resolve and self-sacrifice in the struggle of a people which are not retreating and will not retreat before either cruel repression or the political maneuvers of our enemies."

Speaking of the Reagan administration's position with respect to El Salvador, Comrade Shafik Jorge Handal, general secretary of the Salvadoran Communist Party, declared that the U.S. Government "has set itself an impossible task, believing that it can suppress the revolution in Central America and prevent the peoples' revolutionary advance. In other words, that it can halt the course of history and not only this but also turn back the wheel of history. It has set itself this unattainable goal in the belief that it can achieve this easily, much more easily in El Salvador than in, for example, the Middle East and Africa. It believed that it was easier to achieve this goal here, ending at a stroke the revolutionary aspirations of the peoples of Central America and Latin America as a whole. And it got into this mess. It has now found itself in difficult political conditions which have arisen from the fact that it has been unable to break us and will never be able to do so."

The most convincing proof of the sharply negative attitude toward Reagan's policy has been displayed in the United Nations. In October 1981 the RDF and the FMLN addressed to the UN General Assembly a declaration of their "resolve to begin a dialogue with the military and civilian representatives of the junta on peace

talks." These peace talks, the declaration went on to say, confirm once again our "readiness to seek and find a political solution."

A declaration was adopted on 16 December at the time of discussion of the El Salvador question at the UN General Assembly session which said that the elections in El Salvador do not represent a solution of the conflict in this country and that the way to overcome the crisis is negotiations between the belligerents. It should be noted that even all the NATO members, with the exception of Turkey, agreed with this declaration. The United States is left without support. People's organizations, governments and well-known representatives of the most varied political trends and religious beliefs have spoken in favor of a political solution, that is, negotiations. It is on this that we insist all the time. Reagan's policy has found itself in international isolation. The American people themselves are demanding an end to the interference in El Salvador's internal affairs. The U.S. Congress and the Senate are demanding an end to military assistance to the Salvadoran junta.

Reagan's inflammatory policy was quite recently condemned by the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties at its fifth meeting in Managua (Nicaragua). The final resolution, which was passed on 20 February, vigorously exposes the threat of U.S. military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. The resolution says, *inter alia*: "The present U.S. Administration's policy of hegemony and confrontation is in sharp contrast with the position of cooperation, dialogue and respect for people's right to self-determination which has been displayed by many West European countries and the most influential and sober currents of international public opinion."

However, despite everything, the United States is persisting in the aggression against the Salvadoran people. Why? Because interests of another sphere, private interests, the interests of groups and individual persons, the interests of the Republican Party and also the interests of Reagan himself, have now entered the game. We have to bear in mind the question of the succession of power in the United States, the traditional aspiration of each president to be reelected for a subsequent term and the Republican Party's endeavor to remain the ruling party. But if the United States' policy in respect of El Salvador fails, it will be more difficult for the Republican Party to gain a further 4 years in office, as, equally, for Reagan to be reelected U.S. President.

Having been defeated at the first stage of the intervention, they have now switched to preparation of the next stage--aggression in El Salvador with the aid of foreign troops. Neither the military assistance which has cost many millions of dollars nor the presence of more than 200 American military advisers, who are participating directly in the battles against the guerrillas and the punitive operations against the peaceful population and in acts of genocide, are any longer sufficient for them. They see as the sole possible method of saving the present reactionary regime in El Salvador and justifying Reagan's policy the organization of foreign forces' intervention in El Salvador and the spread of military operations to all of Central America and the Caribbean.

The planned intervention in El Salvador is not being confined to this country alone. It pursues the goal of putting an end to free and sovereign Nicaragua

and socialist Cuba, drowning in blood the revolutionary movement in Guatemala, strengthening the reactionary and ultraright forces in the region and cutting short the revolutionary process on Grenada. Imperialism is making serious political and military preparations for the realization of these goals.

Thus we Salvadoran patriots have to wage the struggle on two fronts--against the reactionary dictatorship and against the inflammatory policy of U.S. imperialism. The revolution has greater political scope than the dictatorship and American imperialism. The sole thing left to the dictatorship and Reagan to escape defeat is increased military operations by means of the intervention of foreign troops. In this connection the FMLN Supreme Command declared on 20 December 1981: "If the aggressive Reagan administration... is resolved to remain deaf to the voices of protest and alarm throughout the world and implements plans for expanding military operations or foreign intervention against the Salvadoran people, it will find us, the Salvadoran patriots, ready with weapon in hand to offer unbending and implacable resistance."

The revolutionary forces advocate a political solution of the El Salvador conflict on the paths of negotiations. In other words, we aspire to an end to the war. We are fighting for peace in El Salvador and in Central America and the Caribbean and waging a struggle for peace worldwide. The point is, however, that the triumph of the cause of peace is feared by both the reactionary dictatorship and American imperialism because it would signify their defeat. They are for the peace and quiet of the graveyard and hope to achieve them by way of the physical extermination of the forces of revolution and democracy.

Thus the struggle for peace is for us a powerful weapon against foreign aggression. It enables us to rely even more closely on world public opinion for obtaining support for the movement against intervention and for ensuring that the peoples, governments, organizations and people of all political, social and religious trends be fully aware of the fact that peace must be established in El Salvador, that we are making enormous efforts in the struggle for peace in the Central American region and the Caribbean and that we must not stint our efforts in defense of peace throughout the world. We wish to put an end to the sufferings of our people, avert the danger to the cause of peace and reach a political solution by way of negotiation.

In our struggle we feel the strong international support without which we would be unable to wage the struggle against the El Salvador dictatorship and American imperialism successfully. International solidarity is vitally necessary for the struggling Salvadoran people and their revolutionary and democratic organizations. The Soviet people's firm resolve to render the Salvadoran people's struggle full moral and political support is not fortuitous therefore. Our brother communists, primarily Soviet, are distinguished in this international anti-imperialist front of solidarity with the Salvadoran people.

The Salvadoran Communist Party attaches particular significance to the strengthening of fraternal relations with the CPSU, the USSR and other socialist community countries.

The "Grounds and Propositions of the Party's General Line" emphasize: "In our era the political successes and victories of all peoples of the world are

inseparably connected, directly or indirectly, with the existence and strengthening of the Soviet Union and the socialist community, their international policy and their implementation of proletarian internationalism." "The USSR today is the main bastion of proletarian internationalism and peace worldwide and the firm moral-political and material basis of the peoples in the struggle for liberation and the building of a more just society,"* Comrade S.J. Handal, general secretary of the Salvadoran Communist Party, emphasized in his speech devoted to the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR.

Together with the CPSU and the other fraternal parties the Communist Party of El Salvador supports the cohesion of the world communist movement on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

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CSO: 1807/150

*PRAVDA, 26 December 1982.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION HONORED

FL141530 Bridgetown CANA in English 1746 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 13 Mar (CANA)--Six eight-wheeled armoured personnel carriers, scores of trucks, jeeps and some ambulances rumbled through the streets of this small Caribbean island today as it started celebrating the fourth anniversary of a coup that brought the left-leaning New Jewel Movement (NJM) to power.

The armoured personnel carriers headed a motorcade which was one of the two highlights of the celebrations, another being a military display at Tanteen, on the outskirts of the capital, St Georges. Witnesses said at least seven field guns, mobile searchlights and several pieces of mobile equipment bearing Russian markings were on display.

The People's Revolutionary Army, the militia, the police, cadets and civilians took part in the motorcade, which started hours after Prime Minister Maurice Bishop had accused the United States of trying to destabilise his country. Mr Bishop said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had drawn up a plan to derail his government, getting limited approval for it from former President Jimmy Carter and fuller backing from current president, Ronald Reagan.

The WASHINGTON POST highlighted the alleged CIA plot in its 27 February edition. It said that President Reagan had accepted not only the propaganda destabilisation component of the CIA plan Mr Carter had approved, but what it referred to as unusual and unspecified methods of destabilisation.

"When we hear about these unspecified and unusual components, we have to think to 19 June 1980 and to wonder if part of this unusual method was to teach local counterrevolutionaries how to make timing bombs which could then be planted in Queen's Park with the aim of wiping out our entire leadership in one blow," Mr Bishop told reporters on his return from the nonaligned summit in India last night.

Three persons were killed and nearly 100 injured when a bomb went off during a government-sponsored rally at Queen's Park in 1980.

The prime minister also accused the United States of trying to organise a number of counterrevolutionary "elements" living abroad to attack the Grenada revolution. Mr Bishop told reporters: "Imperialism is never going to stop attacking our revolution as long as the revolution is there, alive, sound, healthy and is going forward."

He added: "We have a duty to build on our organisation. We have a duty to remain vigilant. We have a duty to continue to build our consciousness.

"We have a duty to continue to express our internationalist solidarity with other revolutions and progressive forces. We have a duty to ensure that our revolution continues to march on, ever forward and ever stronger."

CSO: 3298/1225

CRITICISM OF UNITED STATES EASES

FL141716 Bridgetown CANA in English 1922 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 13 Mar (CANA)--The ADVOCATE-NEWS newspaper today said Grenada might have eased up on its open criticism of the United States' foreign policy because it did not want attention directed to some of its plans that were encouraged by the Soviet Union. The paper made the comment in an editorial that focused on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's claim last week that Grenada was an example of the recent Soviet and Cuban military build-up in the Caribbean.

"...The efforts with which the PRG (People's Revolutionary Government) have been attempting to keep certain developments in the country secret, with late-night movement of heavy vehicles and so forth, could hardly be an exercise not calculated to create suspicion," the paper said.

"But suspicion is not fact, and this is where the work of the intelligence experts is important. So we need not believe that Reagan is merely flying a kite in his Grenada charges.

"In fact, one of the reasons why Grenada has gone unusually quiet where the United States is concerned, might well be that she is not prepared at this stage to draw too much attention to herself as she moves ahead with her plans assisted by Cuba and encouraged by the Soviet Union."

Grenada's ambassador to the United Nations, Dessima Williams, dismissed President Reagan's charges as false and invited him to the Caribbean island to investigate the situation.

Mr Reagan also claimed that the Soviet Union planned to use a communist arms build-up in the Caribbean to tie down American forces on the southern border of the United States and "limit our capacity to act in more distant places."

The paper said: "It is sensible strategy. If anyone is forced to worry about what is likely to happen in his backyard, he cannot pay as much attention as he would like to what is going on in other places.

"It is the same type of motivation that encouraged the Soviet Union to invade Afghanistan," the newspaper added.

CSO: 3298/1225

BRIEFS

PEOPLE URGED TO FIGHT U.S. 'AGGRESSORS'—Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has asked his people to reaffirm their oath that they will fight any aggressor from the United States. On the fourth anniversary of the Grenadian revolutionary process and the 11th anniversary of the New Jewel Movement, Bishop addressed the event held to dedicate the Augusto Cesar Sandino construction industrial complex in St Georges, while seven other leaders participated in the dedication of over 20 works performed by the revolutionary people's government. The Grenadian prime minister stressed that if the imperialists decide to invade this Caribbean country to humiliate it and conquer its inhabitants, they will discover the people's combative will and they will find out that the Grenadian people will fight to the very last man, woman and child, as long as a single aggressor remains in the homeland. On the occasion of the Grenadian holiday, Ethiopian President Haile Mariam Mengistu sent a message congratulating the Grenadian people for their successes and their determined struggle against imperialism.

[Text] [PA141840 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 83]

CSO: 3248/592

BRIEFS

MILITARY AVIATION SCHOOL--The Guatemalan Government has created the Technical Military Aviation School, which will be under the Guatemalan Air Force Command and the supervision of the army general staff. [Text] [PA131319 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 11 Mar 83]

AMBASSADORS TO VENEZUELA, DENMARK--The government has appointed Julio Armando Martini Herrera ambassador to Venezuela, transferring him from his ambassadorial post in Brazil. Jorge Arnoldo Daetz has been appointed ambassador to Denmark, with residence in the FRG. [Text] [PA231315 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Mar 83]

CSO: 3248/602

BURNHAM ON REPELLING FOREIGN INVASION

FL081302 Bridgetown CANA in English 1120 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Report by Jose Katigbak]

[Text] New Delhi, 8 Mar (CANA-REUTER)--President Forbes Burnham of Guyana said today he would seek help from anyone, "even the devil," to repel any foreign invasion of his country. Mr Burnham, who is attending the nonaligned summit, told a press conference: "If we are invaded we have no qualms about inviting even the devil."

Referring to neighbouring Venezuela, which claims most of Guyana, he said: "We do not oppose Venezuela's application to join the Nonaligned Movement." "We merely ask that if Venezuela wants to join the club then she must clarify her position with respect to the principles on which the club was formed."

Venezuela withdrew its application to join the movement early this year because of Guyana's opposition.

Despite Mr Burnham's assertions that "we can't keep Venezuela out," conference sources said Guyana could effectively do so because of a nonaligned ruling that all decisions must be reached by consensus. Several Latin American countries believe Venezuela meets all the requirements to join the movement and have appealed to Guyana to moderate its stand.

Cuban President Fidel Castro told the summit yesterday he hoped the Venezuela-Guyana row would be settled through negotiations.

At his press conference, Mr Burnham said Guyana was prepared to abide by a Geneva agreement providing for a settlement of the territorial dispute. "It is Venezuela which is hustling to settle the issue otherwise," he added.

He called for a solution of Latin American and Caribbean problems by peaceful means based on non-intervention and non-interference.

CSO: 3298/1227

BRIEFS

ICAP RECEPTION COMMEMORATES INDEPENDENCE--The Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, ICAP, gave a reception in its headquarters in Havana on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Guyana's independence. Cecil Stanley Pilgrim, Guyanese ambassador to Cuba, referred to the positive aspects of Cuban-Guyanese relations. He also talked about the Guyanese people's struggle for independence. An ICAP official delivered a speech in which he said that the triumph of the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions, the heroic struggles of the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala and the progressive movements of the Caribbean peoples are evidence of the deterioration of imperialism and of the unrestrained advance of the struggle for peace. [Text] [PA240329 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 83]

CSO: 3248/593

NEW DELHI TELEVISION INTERVIEWS SEAGA

0W101215 Delhi Domestic Television Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Interview with Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga by Delhi Domestic Television Reporter I. J. Bahadur Singh; date and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Excellency, about bilateral relations--that is, Jamaica and India--I wonder if you would like to say something to our viewers about how you view them.

[Answer] Well, we have very good relations as members of the Commonwealth. There is a resident ambassador from India, or a high commissioner as ambassadors are called in the Commonwealth. We, unfortunately, do not have a resident high commissioner here. We are a small country and we can't establish resident representatives everywhere, but we do have nonresident relationships. Our relations have always been excellent. There are some bilateral problems that are in progress from time to time, but basically speaking the relationship (?so far) has been very warm and very pleasant.

[Question] Yes, yes. You have a small Indian community in Jamaica, people of Indian descent. They are Jamaicans of course, but they have been there for a large number of years. I met a few of them 3 years ago when there was a conference at the University of West Indies. I was wondering whether you can say something about them?

[Answer] Yes. The Indian community there is not too small by comparison with other minority communities. Indeed, I would say it is the largest of the minority groups. That community settled in Jamaica about 140 years ago. Most of the members of the community came there in the period 1840 to 1870, toward the end of that century. Others came subsequently, but the members of the Indian community who came in this century are largely traders.

[Question] Yes indeed. I believe we can shift to the present purpose of your visit. I think the summit is now on the 3d day, and the prime minister highlighted some things in her inaugural speech. We probably would not be able to touch on all of them, but I wonder whether you could tell us something about what are the matters of interest to Jamaica and the Caribbean area generally.

[Answer] Yes, very much so. As a matter of fact I think the prime minister set the right tone in her inaugural speech in emphasizing the world economic problems and in detailing the problem in some respects and in highlighting the need for this conference to deal with that as a major matter of importance. Naturally, many of the presentations that I will make at the conference will deal with the political problems that exist at various levels in the world, and I obviously will be dealing with those too.

[Question] You haven't yet made your... [Seaga interrupts]

[Answer] No. Unfortunately the program is running a bit behind time. But my major presentation will be on economic affairs. As you know, I am minister of finance [Singh interrupts: Also as well] in my own country as well. Notwithstanding that... [Singh interrupts]

[Question] I think your excellency had a spell at one time with the International Monetary Fund. Were you associated with it?

[Answer] No, only in respect of being the representative of my country on the fund and on the bank [World Bank] Board of Governors.

My presentation will be highlighting the world economic crisis which as you know is the worst situation that we have had since the depression of the 1930's. And in dealing with it we recently had a conference in the Caribbean of the Western Hemispheric Commonwealth countries. And at that conference we examined the problem with a view to trying to devise a solution which is capable of immediate and practical implementation. And the view which was put forward by me at that conference and which was accepted by the conference was a need to seek an additional allocation of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund [IMF] because this would immediately put more credit into the system which would in turn revive world trade which is one of the basic problems of the world crisis--that for the first year in many decades world trade actually decreased in 1982. And since this is a mechanism that is already in effect in the IMF it would need no special programs or special conferences. It needs only the political will, and the political will should come out of this conference very clearly. And for that reason I am going to propose also that whatever be the decisions taken here in relation to seeking a specific solution of advancing specific proposals in relation to the world economic crisis, that this be made an extraordinary declaration of the conference and not be a part of the normal communique. Because that is the way to impress it upon the world consciousness.

[Question] If I remember correctly, the president of Sri Lanka has also suggested that there should be a special effort to increase the amount of--am I right?--of... [Seaga interrupts]

[Answer] It was a part of his presentation that this would be a way of dealing with the problem without any cost involved. These special drawing rights really do not have a cost attached. He made other proposals too, and I had a discussion with him this morning because our proposals are not mutually exclusive. They are in fact complementary.

[Question] About your own economy, excellency, I think you are dependent on sugar, bauxite and aluminum, is it? You don't have oil [Seaga interrupts: "No, no. We don't have oil."] like some of the others. You live in a... [Seaga interrupts: "We are oil importers."] ...You are oil importers; many of those areas have some prosperity because of oil.

[Answer] That's right. Well, we have searched with some traces but we are continuing our program of search. Our main foreign exchange earner is in the mining sector, bauxite and aluminum. We are the third largest producer of aluminum in the world. This is where the international recession has hit us very hard because that market has, as part of the depression in the world market system, has been very badly hit. But we also have other sectors that are major foreign exchange earners, tourism.

[Question] Yes, yes. There is well of course, Jamaica has gone down in history as one of the greatest attractions for tourism.

[Answer] Well, it is a beautiful island. Legend has it that Columbus described it as the most beautiful of the islands. We have rebounded very well in tourism because there was a time during the 1970's when we--we already have had our recession in our terms because in the 1970's we went through a very bad time. And tourism as part of that recession also suffered. But we have shown 20-percent growth in 1981 since the change of government, and in 1982 we succeeded with another 20-percent growth which makes us one of the highest growing resort areas of the world.

[Question] Yes, yes. I know it has been popularized all over the world actually. Excellency, one other question I am interested in finding out. The nonaligned summitters are interested in emphasizing collective self-reliance also. I think you have some arrangements in the Caribbean where you have some regional arrangements. Would you say that you are happy about the way these regional arrangements are working and can they be strengthened?

[Answer] Well, the regional group in the Caribbean area is called CARICOM; it is an acronym for Caribbean Community. It is a trading, a free trade area, but in addition to that there are other areas of cooperation and consultation between the English-speaking Commonwealth group. We are happy with it, yes. It has been successful. I think it could be more successful if it was to broaden (?the family) to include other countries in the Caribbean region. And... [Singh interrupts]

[Question] There is nothing between, arrangements between the English-speaking and the Spanish-speaking?

[Answer] No. But this is the next direction, the next move. And with the advent of the Caribbean-based initiative which we hope will become legislation in Washington very shortly, there is plenty of room for broadening the relationships in trade within the community and by the community with other groups in the Caribbean and Central American Basin area so that I would say that while we are happy with having a functioning and successful relationship among ourselves, the time has come for us to take the next step.

[Question] Yes, yes. I was wondering whether the enlargement of Latin American and Caribbean representation in the Nonaligned Movement which is a phenomenon which we are observing at the present time--and possibly future enlargement--whether this may not form a nucleus for you to...
[Seaga interrupts]

[Answer] I think the greatest growth area in the Nonaligned Movement can come, and most likely will come, from the Caribbean and Latin America because there are many new nations emerging in the Caribbean, and a couple of those have recently joined this session, and there will be others that are about to gain independence shortly who will also come (?forward) at a later stage. Latin America itself has not given--well, they have not participated in the Nonaligned Movement as fully as other regions of the world, and some of the countries are now coming forward to become members. So there are still many more that can become members.

[Question] Yes, yes. That will strengthen the movement, of course.

[Answer] It will. It will give it a broader representation.

CSO: 3200/29

SEAGA MEETS WITH ARAB LEADERS WHILE IN DELHI

FL151808 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Mar--Prime Minister Edward Seaga held discussions today with senior ministers from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as Singapore, on matters of investment and development affecting Jamaica.

In his meeting with Sheik Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, deputy prime minister of Kuwait, the prime minister referred to a meeting he had held with Kuwait representatives in Washington in October last year at which it was decided that representatives of the Kuwait Development Fund would visit Jamaica to discuss suitable projects which the fund could finance.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister undertook to pursue the matter on his return to Kuwait and assured the prime minister that, even under the present conditions of falling oil prices, the fund would not be affected. "We will still finance projects to help our brothers," the sheik said.

In a later meeting with H.R.H. Prince Saud al-Faisal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister expressed his appreciation for the recent visit of a delegation from the Saudi Development Fund--an initiative which arose out of discussions he had held last year with the Saudi finance minister in Washington.

Representatives of the Saudi Development Fund visited Jamaica in February and were presented with a number of projects involving roads, water supplies, irrigation and a drainage for which financing on a project basis is being sought.

In his meeting with the prime minister today, Prince Saud al-Faisal undertook to take a personal interest in the request with a view to expediting a response.

The prime minister also met with Mr Rajaratnam, deputy prime minister of Singapore, with regard to the possibility of Jamaica's being able to attract labour-intensive investments which had been located in Singapore and would be displaced on account of Singapore's new strategies for investment and development under which labour-intensive investments were being discouraged in favour of high-technology industry.

CSO: 3298/1224

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RAPS EEC SUGAR BEET POLICY

FL151851 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Mar 83 p 17

[Text] Expansion of sugar beet production among the member-countries of the European Economic Community is regarded by the African, Caribbean, Pacific group of nations as a threat to their own production of sugar from cane.

This was spelled out by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and trade, the Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, in an address to a seminar of Caribbean Congress of Labour and A.C.P. representatives, held in Kingston recently.

Mr Shearer spoke on the subject of trade cooperation between the EEC and the A.C.P., as provided for under the Lome convention, with specific reference to such commodities as sugar, rum and bananas, which are ground by protocols in the agreement.

Stating that the main difficulty which has arisen with respect to the sugar protocol was its implementation and application by the EEC, Mr Shearer said the substantial increase in sugar production by the EEC was one of the causes of difficulty. "Despite the existing surplus of sugar on the world market, the EEC continues to encourage the expansion of beet sugar production," he noted. "During the period 1968-80, the area of farmland under beet sugar cultivation increased by 25.7 percent and sugar production by as much as 50 percent.

"There is a strong feeling within the A.C.P. that there is a threat to A.C.P. sugar. Already the EEC devotes a large and disproportionate sum to the maintenance of its sugar production. A sugar policy is applied whereby surpluses in the EEC resulting from over-production are disposed of on the world market with the aid of subsidies.

"Although sugar beet production accounts for only 2 percent of total agricultural production, between 1977 and 1979, some 10 percent to 20 percent of expenditure on refunds went to this sector."

Mr Shearer said that there was talk of the cost which the EEC has to bear for implementing the sugar protocol and further talk encouraging the A.C.P.

through aid, to diversify out of sugar. The A.C.P. has, however, made it clear that the question of sugar is one of trade, not aid.

"The EEC gave an undertaking to buy and import A.C.P. sugar from 1974 when the Lome agreement came into effect. At that time, the EEC was a net importer of sugar," he went on.

"With little regard to their obligations, the EEC expanded their sugar production to such an extent that they are now net exporters. The A.C.P. continues to demand the maintenance of traditional markets."

Under the sugar protocol, the EEC gives an undertaking for an indefinite period of time to buy and import A.C.P. cane sugar at guaranteed prices.

CSO: 3298/1224

COUNTRY SECTION

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN ENVOY--Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole received Whaib Fahmy el-Meniawy, the Egyptian ambassador to Jamaica, on Wednesday. The ambassador, who is resident in Caracas, Venezuela, earlier presented his credentials to the governor general. [FL151432 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Mar 83 p 13]

CSO: 3298/1224

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT COMMUNIQUE ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT

PA132114 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The Mexican Government believes that the nonaligned summit, which is taking place "at a time of growing economic and political tensions in international relations," is an invaluable opportunity for advancing the goals and efforts of the developing countries, for facing up to the serious impact of the world economic crisis and for preserving international peace and security by applying the principles of nonintervention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The foreign relations secretariat notes these points in a document that was issued yesterday, adding that the summit "is an unprecedented political event" in the history of the nonaligned movement, which was founded in 1961. High-level political representatives from 116 countries, including 79 heads of state or government, will participate.

Mexico is attending the New Delhi meeting as an observer. Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor is at the head of the Mexican delegation, which includes Victor Flores Olea, under secretary for multinational affairs; Graciela de la Lama, ambassador to India; Jorge Montano, director of international organizations; Miguel A. Olea, director of economic affairs; and Manuel Rodriguez Arriaga, private secretary to Foreign Secretary Sepulveda.

The meeting's agenda includes an analysis of the international economic crisis and its impact on the developing countries. In this regard, the foreign relations secretariat communique notes that the decrease in development funds and the burdens of foreign debt, high interest rates, falling prices for raw materials and growing trade protectionism have become severe limitations to world economic growth, damaging the developing nations particularly.

The nonaligned countries, the communique says, will try to implement measures to confront such problems immediately and effectively. Therefore, within the UN framework, the nonaligned intend to encourage international negotiations with the industrialized countries and to increase economic cooperation among the developing nations.

The foreign relations secretariat communique explains that the economic imbalances have intensified both local conflicts and regional political and social tensions. It adds that the seventh summit proposes to reaffirm the nonaligned's belief in the need to preserve international peace and security and to apply the principles of nonintervention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The seventh summit will also reiterate support for the national liberation movements and for those peoples who are fighting for political and economic emancipation.

Likewise, the summit will insist on universal and complete disarmament, which is a prerequisite for international peace and security. It will propose measures in opposition to the expansion of the arms race and will emphasize the need to have the resources that are now allocated for such purposes used to promote economic and social development instead. In various international forums, Mexico has fought to secure proper respect for these principles, as well as for political detente and for the strengthening of cooperative economic development.

CSO: 3248/611

PARTIES REACT TO REAGAN STATEMENT ON CENTRAL AMERICA

PA191730 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 5

[By Julio Hernandez Lopez and Emilio Lomas]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement describing Central America as his country's fourth border have elicited protests from legislators and political party spokesmen. Foremost among the voices raised in anger over the U.S. President's statement was that of Coahuila Senator Raul Castellano Jimenez, who spoke about a very likely act of aggression by the neighboring country and consequently asked Mexicans to unite around his government in facing the "contingencies" that might come from the north in future.

Castellano Jimenez told newsmen that Reagan made the Central American and Caribbean countries feel his government's pressure from the moment he took office as president. Castellano Jimenez added that the /Reagan Plan/ [slant-lines denote italics as published] seeks to increase its aggressiveness as it advances, which represents a grave danger for all of the area's countries.

Other senators, such as Salvador J. Neme from Tabasco and Manuel Ramos Gurrion from Veracruz, have said that our nation's sovereignty is not in danger at all but is perfectly safe. The PRI legislators feel that Mexico's international principles have earned respect. In addition, there are historical trends that support our sovereignty and self-determination. Ramos Gurrion stressed that although Mexico is concerned over Central America's problems, this does not mean that these conflicts "can reach Mexico or drive it toward communism.'

The PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico] declared that "the policy implemented by Reagan and his government team definitely reaches schizophrenic levels when it tries to ignore the reasons for the existence of the popular movements in Central America, which are struggling to get rid of opprobrious dictatorships and to throw off the U.S. yoke." The PSUM adds that, aside from the aggressiveness and expansionism made evident in his statement, Reagan contributes a particularly interesting element when he speaks of Central America as virtually his own territory, thus "justifying military and economic aid for the Salvadoran Government and a threat against Nicaragua's revolutionary government, which has constantly been harassed by Somozist forces and by Honduras." The PSUM adds that Reagan's statement

"is a warning to the Central American peoples of the acts of aggression that this administration might carry out. This demands solidarity from the peoples and the democratic forces."

For his part, Ulises Martinez, spokesman for the PRT [Revolutionary Workers' Party], thinks that these statements clearly show that imperialism is preparing an act of intervention in El Salvador, which later would be extended to other countries in the area, such as Guatemala and even Nicaragua. Reagan's last card, armed intervention, has been laid on the table. Because of this, it is not important for Latin America to set forth, as Mexico has done, the principle of free self-determination of peoples. Finally, Martinez said that if Reagan intervenes in El Salvador he will continue on to Guatemala and Nicaragua. With the same freedom, he might favor intervention in Mexico.

For his part, Deputy Ricardo Govela, information official for the PST [Workers' Socialist Party], recalled that Reagan has always regarded Mexico as a military and economic strategic zone for the United States. This fits in logically with his imperialist ideas. However, Govela stressed that President Miguel de la Madrid responded intelligently to Reagan, answering correctly and in a way that did not endanger the country, despite the current delicate situation. Mexico, he added, must be united now, demonstrating a force that underlines the nation's independence and our rejection of interventionism.

PDM [Mexican Democratic Party] spokesman Jesus Zamora refused to make a formal statement before the Mexican Government defines its position, but he did say that despite Mexico's debt to the United States and our commercial dependence, we are a free nation and will continue to be so as long as Mexicans want it that way. "They have us thinking now, because we don't know if they are being serious or just joking. Reagan's statement assigns us the status of a new /commonwealth/ [slantlines denote italics as published], like Puerto Rico." Zamora added that Americans are interested in Mexico and that "they have their sights fixed on us." For this reason, he recommended unity despite domestic differences.

Finally, PAN [National Action Party] Deputy Carlos Chavira suggested to Reagan that a better way to win the Central American people's friendship is to send food instead of arms. Reagan's statement about his country's fourth border, the PAN deputy added, is but a copy of former statements and a repetition of standard U.S. policy. He also stressed that if the U.S. Government is concerned that communism might extend to Mexico with the guerrillas' victories in Central America, it should realize that "we are already close to that situation in this country, since the government has nationalized the banks, the unions and other things."

CSO: 3248/611

OPPOSITION SEEKS MODERNIZATION OF POLITICAL REFORM

PA162258 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 7

[By Fidel Samaniego]

[Text] The opposition parties have asked the government to establish a popular consultation forum to modernize the political reform because, they said, if the strengthening of democracy and freedom is ignored in the action against the crisis, a grave social collapse could follow. Therefore, they consider it indispensable that all ideological currents participate in the decisions that concern the majority.

These organizations also asked that the national political discussions study ways to change the make up of the senate of the republic, including the principle of proportionality, and that the people living in the federal district be allowed to elect their own rulers.

In this respect, Pablo Gomez, secretary general of the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico], said that his party asked long ago that popular consultation meetings include debates on the nation's political life and that an urgent effort be made to find ways to expand the political reform's scope, which is considered insufficient and restricts the opposition parties' capacity to participate.

Jaime Trejo, official spokesman of the United Socialist Party of Mexico, said that the struggle for democracy in the country is fundamental, especially in the face of an economic crisis that affects the great majority of the people, whose rights could be curtailed.

Arturo Ayala, organization secretary of the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party], said that unfortunately the political aspect has been excluded from the national planning process, which is dangerous in Mexico's current difficult period.

He added that evidently a political and social graduation has occurred, which has resulted in the people having little possibility to express themselves vigorously and honestly.

He added that it is urgent to hold public debates on essential subjects, such as how to change the composition of the senate, to include legislators

with proportional representation and to give the citizens of the federal district the right to elect the chief of the department, who should have the rank of governor.

He said it is indispensable to include the political aspect in popular consultations because antidemocratic practices still persist that prevent the expression of the popular will, especially in the municipalities and in the actions of the Caciques, who endanger the country's institutional life.

Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, official spokesman for the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], said it is not a bad idea to include popular consultation of the country's political life at a high level. He added that this is indispensable due to Mexico's current crisis.

The political problem should be dealt with diligently and seriously in order to strengthen democracy, which is elemental to preserving the country's institutional life and preventing social conflicts, he said.

Finally, the PAN [National Action Party] warned that unless the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] stops the antidemocratic practices to obtain positions that should be filled by popular elections, there can be no honest political life in Mexico.

It added that it is therefore necessary that the popular consultation process include the subject of the political reforms that are now corrupt and incomplete.

CSO: 3248/611

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BRIEFS

NEW MAGAZINE--The first issue of the magazine UNIVERSIDAD OBRERA has begun circulating in Mexico City. It is devoted to Karl Marx on the centennial of his death and contains articles by Mexican, East German and Soviet authors. [Text] [PA202037 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 83]

CSO: 3248/611

REVOLUTIONARY GUARD PROTECTION LAW PUBLISHED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] The Governing Junta of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua

Under its lawful authority and based on Article 18 of Decree Law 388 of 18 May 1980, informs the Nicaraguan people:

That it approves the proposal made by the Council of State for a decree entitled, "Revolutionary Guard Protection Law," the complete text of which is as follows:

The Council of State of the Republic of Nicaragua, meeting in regular session No 10 on 8 September 1982, "Year of Unity Against Aggression,"

Considering

I

That the defense of the nation is a permanent task and a patriotic duty which our people have accepted responsibly.

II

That the revolutionary vigilance exercised by our people has succeeded in reducing the crime rate up to 85 percent the length and breadth of our nation.

III

That because of the importance of the revolutionary guards in the defense of the revolution and society in general they are objects of serious threats and attempts by antisocial elements and those opposed to the revolutionary process.

IV

That there are at present 150,000 revolutionary guards, who have become heroic servants of the community; therefore, it is necessary for our revolutionary state to enact legislation that will provide them physical and moral protection.

Therefore, under its lawfully constituted authority, this government decrees the following:

Law to Protect the Revolutionary Guard

Article 1--Revolutionary vigilance is an activity carried out in rural and urban areas with the basic objective of defending the revolutionary process, preventing crime, and insure order and tranquillity among all citizens.

Article 2--The revolutionary guards are those Nicaraguan citizens who, without regard for their political, trade union, social, or religious affiliations and motivated by a lofty patriotic spirit, participate in carrying out these tasks under the guidance of the Sandinist Defense Committees.

Article 3--For the purpose of the publication of this statute all those foreign comrades who express their eagerness to lend their support by participating in revolutionary vigilance will be included and therefore are granted the right to reside in this country and the authorization to so participate by the Sandinist Defense Committees.

Article 4--The distinguishing features of the revolutionary guards are:

- 1) Their civilian status.
- 2) Their contribution of valuable service to the community.
- 3) Their voluntary service.
- 4) Their lofty spirit of self-sacrifice and unselfishness.
- 5) Their high degree of discipline.
- 6) Their gratuitous services.
- 7) The primary nocturnal nature of their activities.

Article 5--For purposes of this statute a person's capacity as revolutionary guard will be certified by the coordinator of the Sandinist neighborhood committee and must be signed and sealed by the coordinator of the municipal or county office of the corresponding Sandinist defense committee.

Article 6--Anyone who criminally attacks or threatens a revolutionary guard engaged in the performance of his duties, in violation of the penal code, will be sentenced to double the punishment established for such crimes and under no circumstance will the sentence be reduced.

Article 7--The Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute (INSSBI) will grant all benefits provided by Workers Accident and Professional Illnesses Insurance to all revolutionary guards, who will enjoy the same rights as insured persons.

Article 8--These benefits will be granted to the persons mentioned in the previous article only when they dutifully follow the orders of their superior and are engaged in tasks connected with vigilance, which circumstances will be certified by the coordinator of the Sandinist neighborhood committee and will bear the signature and seal of the municipal or county office of the corresponding Sandinist defense committee.

Article 9--Benefit payme. uninsured revolutionary guards under this statute will be based on the current industrial minimum wage. Payments to insured beneficiaries will conform with regulations of the Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute (INSSBI) but will in no case be lesser than the current industrial minimum wage.

Article 10--Expenditures occasioned by the provisions of this statute on behalf of those who are uninsured or do not have rights under the law will be charged to the central government, which will credit such sums to the account of the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute (INSSBI) through the Finance Ministry whenever the INSSBI makes such payments.

Article 11--This decree will take effect as soon as it is published by any public communications medium without prejudice to its ultimate publication in LA GACETA, the official government journal.

Decreed in the Assembly Room of the Council of State in the City of Managua the eighth day of September of nineteen hundred and eighty-two, "Year of Unity Against Aggression."

/s/ Carlos Nunez Tellez
 Revolutionary Commander
 President of the Council of State

Rafael Solis Cerdá
Deputy Commander
Secretary of the Council of State

Be It So Decreed as the Law of the Land

Executed in the city of Managua this twenty-fourth day of September of nineteen hundred and eighty-two, "Year of Unity Against Aggression."

Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction

Sergio Ramirez Mercado

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Rafael Cordova Rivas

Managua, 24 January 1983

9015
CSO: 3248/531

PAREDES PRAISES POPULAR NATIONALIST PARTY'S SAEZ

PA032339 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Mar 83 pp 1A, 6B

[Letter from Brig Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the Panama National Guard, to Olimpo Saez, president of the Popular Nationalist Party, dated 24 February 1983]

[Text] Mr Olimpo Saez, president of the Popular Nationalist Party

Dear Mr Saez:

Although I do not have the pleasure of knowing you personally, I have, as a Panamanian citizen, been following your steps as a young politician. Independent of my coincidental position as commander in chief of our armed institution, as a citizen I value deeds and men anywhere in the nation's activities when these play a decisive role in political orientation.

I admire your courage and fighting spirit, despite the fact that at some moments we do not agree on various proposals and positions. Nevertheless, I believe that you, as leader of a recently established political party, never place the common and normal search of many politicians to obtain supporters and votes above the deep and sacred ideals of the homeland.

Young leaders like you and some other Panamanian politicians are fortunately beginning to appear as figures with great civic attitude who can begin to replace, for the benefit of Panama, the decrepit and negative politicians who prefer genuflection and electoral scheming without considering the moral and ethical cost.

Sincerely, "All for the homeland"

[Signed] Brig Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the national guard.

CSO: 3248/612

MANFREDO SAYS BOYCOTT WOULD NOT HURT CANAL

PA141739 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] If the South American countries decided not to use the Panama Canal in order to protest the toll hikes that went into effect today, this would not affect the functioning of the interoceanic waterway.

A 9.8-percent hike in Panama Canal tolls took effect today. This is the fourth toll hike since 15 August 1914, when the Canal was inaugurated. Under the new tolls, cargo ships will pay \$1.83 per net ton and \$1.46 per ton of ballast, and warships and special ships will pay \$1.02 per ton of displacement.

This measure, according to Canal authorities, was adopted to compensate for the reduction in revenues due to the loss of one of the major clients—Alaskan Oil—and to the current world recession, was approved in early February by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The toll hikes will generate an additional yearly revenue of \$32 million. A total of \$324 million in Canal tolls were obtained in 1982. According to Canal Commission authorities, the revenues obtained from the new tolls will be used to improve the Canal's facilities in order to speed up traffic through the 80-km waterway.

An average of 37 ships go through the Canal every day, each of them taking 17 hours to cross from one ocean to the other. The United States, the major client, transports 170 million tons per year, while Latin America transports 59 million tons.

Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and Chile, the major Latin American Canal users, have voiced their protests from the moment the toll hike was proposed, and especially when it was approved.

Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, comments on this:

[Begin Manfredo recording] The Latin American countries do not represent a large part of the total traffic through the Canal. However, to them that traffic is very important. For instance, in the case of Ecuador, traffic through the Canal represents about 48 percent of its international maritime trade. In the case of Peru, a similar figure is involved. However, the

cargo volume to and from Ecuador amounts to no more than 4 percent of the cargo that goes through the Canal, and a similar figure is involved in the case of Peru. Therefore, if part of this market were lost, it would not have a very big impact on the Canal's operations. Now, we definitely don't want to lose this market, and we realize how important that small volume is for those sister nations. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/612

PAREDES NOTES MILITARY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DEMOCRACY

PA130047 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Statement by Panama National Guard Commander Gen Ruben D. Paredes at ceremony in which he was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Venezuelan Armed Forces of National Cooperation at the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama City on 11 March 1983--recorded.

[Text] The Fraternal Republic of Venezuela will always occupy a special place in our hearts because of its continuous support and exemplary attitude during the recent phase of the struggle to recover our sovereignty which resulted in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. At this time we cannot fail to mention--noblesse oblige--the Venezuelan people and [former] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

This year, in which we commemorate the bicentennial of Bolivar's birth, this high honor you have bestowed on me acquires exceptional significance for me and for the national guard. At the same time it entails a very special responsibility: that of upholding Bolivar's writings which teach us to value democracy as the best form of government for our peoples. More than anyone else, we who wear a military uniform today have the duty of strengthening democracy and defending our country's political institutions. Among other things, Bolivar saw this defense of democracy as the rejection of Caudillismo in all its forms with strict adherence to the principles of civilian rule.

Unfortunately, Caudillismo has been one of the continent's worst ills. Its eradication presents notable progress of the best forms of peaceful and civilized coexistence of our nations' peoples.

To the liberator, however, democracy also represented the defense of order, freedom and the human right to choose the manner of expressing political will and to determine, without pressure, the form of government.

Bolivar told the Bolivian Constituent Assembly that tyranny and anarchy form an immense ocean of oppression. These words of warning should lead us to profound reflection, and should never be forgotten by any person who appreciates real freedom. To the liberator, the worst ills that afflicted our people were chaos and dictatorships. Because of this he gave foremost

importance to free assembly of the citizenry to decide on the constitution that would rule their political destiny.

In the past few years our people have had experience in the practice of democracy on a local level. With the experience obtained through the system of corregimiento representatives our people have learned how to better participate in the country's public affairs. Today we are getting ready to perfect even further the mechanism that will give Panamanians more access to their greatest civic and political responsibilities. We, the members of the armed forces, will not rest until this is achieved and our mission is accomplished.

The laws, and above all the constitution that guarantees the harmonious co-existence of our people, must come from an agreement freely accepted by the majority of Panamanians based on their real needs, aspirations and their characteristics, because of this we are working on a reform to the constitution, and to do away with the threat of a people-against-people confrontation that is unfortunately taking place in certain Central American countries.

We have also suggested the possibility of a great national agreement to face the serious problems of the Panamanian fatherland, and solely for this reason. We firmly support a political and democratic solution to satisfy our people's growing and legitimate aspirations.

For the past 14 years I, along with my comrades in arms, have been closely linked to the highest government responsibilities. We have fulfilled them with an earnest desire to provide public service, trying to interpret faithfully the feelings of all of our countrymen, both in and out of uniform, and they have repaid us with respect and affection. This has moved us. Our countrymen's respect and affection compels us to make bigger and better efforts to satisfy the clamor for social justice, progress and peace, from both those who are members of political parties and the others. The majority, who still do not have any links with any partisan organizations.

So far the people have shown trust in us. We have achieved this because we have always been disposed toward satisfying the country's most legitimate aspirations and maintaining an atmosphere of social peace based on respect for human rights and dignity. We are therefore satisfied to see that there is not one single political prisoner in this country; there is not one single Panamanian in exile, unless it is self-imposed; and there is not one single Panamanian up in arms in the mountains or fields of this nation.

We are walking with the people along the path of peaceful changes, supporting the constitutional government headed by President Ricardo de la Espriella, with the certainty that we will achieve our own national political framework that will not involve the surrendering of the authentic conquests and positive achievements that over the past 14 years have been incorporated into the new reality of a Panama with an identity more of its own; that of a Panama that is finally united from border to border.

CWO: 3248/612

REPORTAGE ON SENDERO LUMINOSO ACTIVITIES

Terrorist, Peasant Casualties Reported

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p A-10

[Article by Samuel Rios, special correspondent: "Thirty Terrorists, Ten Peasants Die in Ayacucho Provinces"]

[Text] Ayacucho, 18 Feb--According to what was learned today, 30 terrorists and 10 peasants died in the last 24 hours in the provinces of Huanta and Victor Fajardo as a result of savage battles. Subversive groups attacked several communities in those provinces.

A considerable number of support troops of the forces of order had to be sent to those places to quench the violence unleashed by the rebels in this renewed subversive action by Sendero Luminoso in both provinces.

The community of Huashuay a few kilometers northwest of Huaychau in Huanta Province was attacked this morning by about 40 terrorists who killed three peasants.

In spite of those casualties, the people of the community reacted quickly and managed to repel the attack, forcing the rebels to flee. Four terrorists were captured and eight rifles recovered.

The extremists who fled from the people of that community went to an area called Araupay--the site presumably of an important Senderista headquarters--to resume their attack on Huashuay.

At the time this dispatch was sent, some 200 people in Huashuay were fighting intensive battles with the guerrilla group while members of the forces of order were going in support of the community.

Reports reaching this city indicated that the extremists were intensifying their action in the area of Huaychau, Huashuay and other nearby communities because of the strategic nature of the area. It is more than 3,500 meters in altitude and lies between the valley of Ayacucho and the jungle.

It was also reported that more than 20 terrorists were killed by police in Victor Fajardo Province after the rebels attacked the community of Sacsamarca. Seven people in the community died.

The peasants killed at least 20 of the terrorists, according to figures received until now.

Abimael Guzman Not Dead

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p A-8

[Article by Samuel Rios Barrientos, special correspondent: "Report on Abimael Guzman's Death Could Be False"]

[Text] Ayacucho, 21 Feb--The reports on the alleged death of the leader of Sendero Luminoso, Abimael Guzman or "Comrade Gonzalo," as a result of antisubversive action in Victor Fajardo could not be officially confirmed here. However, it was inferred from reports from other sources that they might be false.

According to police spokesmen, there has been sensational speculation on the alleged death of the leader of the extremists as well as the number of deaths in the confrontations fought in the mentioned province.

The PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] denied that a team of specialists from the Homicide Division of that institution had come from Lima to identify Guzman's body and take it from Victor Fajardo to the capital.

Apparently there was a mistaken inference from information about Abimael Guzman's presence in the war-torn area.

As was reported, the leader of Sendero Luminoso was seen in the area of Victor Fajardo and is probably directing guerrilla actions in that sector.

(In Lima, authorities neither confirmed nor denied the news that the rebel chief had died. Neither would they discuss the high number of deaths in the operations by the forces of order to fight the subversives in Victor Fajardo.)

Situation in Victor Fajardo, Huanta

Reports from Victor Fajardo indicated that intensive battles were being fought and that the forces of order were implacably pursuing the terrorists.

It was also learned here that there were confrontations between the forces of order and the rebels in Huanta Province, especially in the mountainous areas near Uchuraccai.

It was learned that a large military and police contingent arrived in Ayacucho from Lima today to reinforce the actions against the extremist groups in Huanta as well as in Victor Fajardo and to guarantee measures insuring tranquillity and public order in the declared emergency zone.

The command of the emergency zone announced that the terrorists killed four peasants in a subversive attack early yesterday morning at Huamanquiquia (Victor Fajardo).

One of the victims—a woman—was not identified. The others were Hilario Huaman (governor), Ereneo Barrantes and Benigno Chaico Quispe.

It was also learned that the police captured four people in Kullupuquio, near the war-torn area of San Jose de Secce. They had murdered three members of that community last 10 February.

Those arrested were Julio Pacheco Vargas (48), Jose Figueroa Bernedo (62), Ercilio Catalino Gutierrez (27) and Pablo Guerrero Espinoza (22).

In an attack on the community of Kullupuquio, they killed Victor Ramos Nieves, Eciapes Aguilar and Erasmo Pariona.

Government Inaction Against Terrorism

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 6

[Article by Juan Gonzalez Yuste: "Former Chief of Army Intelligence Says Government Has Lost a Lot of Time"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Retired Gen Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, 63 years old, believes that Sendero Luminoso came into existence because the government did not have a preventive plan for the depressed Ayacucho region. He stated: "The problem has been ignored; it has not been called by its real name. There has been talk about /bandits/ and /criminals/ without facing reality."

To the former chief of intelligence of the Peruvian Army--one of the most important geostrategists in Latin America--this reality consists of the fact that Sendero Luminoso has a native ideology: Maoism filtered through the Peruvian Marxist philosopher Jose Carlos Mariategui.

"The Senderistas are terrorists; that is true. But they also fight a guerrilla war; they participate in real armed battles," Mercado Jarrin told EL PAIS from his house in Chacarilla del Estanque, a residential area in Lima. "The government has lost a lot of time and now the action will cost a lot of lives. However, indiscriminate repression is not appropriate. This is not settled with bullets. It is necessary to offer the peasants something different, improve their living conditions."

General Mercado added: "No one could fight this war without popular support which Sendero Luminoso has. Its men act in the city of Ayacucho itself; they are in the university, the schools, the banks and the hospitals....They continue to act in spite of the state of siege. No, I do not believe that the Senderistas receive aid from abroad. It is a movement that is ideologically different from Cuba, the USSR and the current leaders of the People's Republic of China. Sendero Luminoso might receive collaboration from old guerrillas from other Latin American countries--the Montoneros, the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], the Tupamaros--who act as instructors."

"What would I have done to destroy this movement? I would have developed a preventive action, created a development plan for that poor zone. I would

also have established an intelligence structure. It is impossible to fight invisible enemies. It is necessary to identify the ringleaders, learn their methods of action, carry out a psychological war. At the same time, it is necessary to make the Constitution and the law respected, avoid /Argentinization/ of the problem."

History, Philosophy of Senderistas

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 6

[Article by Juan Gonzalez Yuste: "Sendero Luminoso: Maoism and Inca Myths"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] The Peruvian revolutionary organization, Sendero Luminoso, has managed to implant itself in the most depressed regions of the Andean central sierra, mainly the provinces in Ayacucho Department, simultaneously using a far left ideology and the old Inca mythology. To many observers, the democratic government restored in 1980 let too much time pass before fighting the guerrillas. A special correspondent from EL PAIS to Peru reports as follows.

In some remote corner of the Andes, the cut head of the mythological Inca has begun to grow. The torso and the extremities of the colossus have been slowly developing underground for centuries until some day soon /Incarri/, the giant, will return to life and free his people. This messianic legend born at the time of the Spanish conquest of the Inca empire persists in the Andean towns where Quechua is spoken and where the oppression of the colonists was replaced by the oppression of the young republics.

Sendero Luminoso has used this and other parts of the Indian mythology in the "popular war" that began more than 2-1/2 years ago against the Peruvian Government. Recalling the remote times of the Inca empire, the Maoist guerrillas of the Andean central sierra publicly whip the "enemies of the people" guilty of minor crimes or shave their heads as the Incas did. They even kill dogs and hang them from posts and trees as death threats against people who know that the old Incas buried the dead with their dogs.

From his house in Lima, Senator Enrique Bernales of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, one of the members of the antigovernment coalition IU [United Left], commented on the Senderista phenomenon: "The work developed by Sendero Luminoso in Ayacucho has had a messianic, religious nature. Perhaps if they had been Jehovah's Witnesses instead of Maoists, they would have achieved the same result."

"Pol Pot" Concept

Bernales emphasized that the Senderistas, in general, have not murdered rich farmers or kidnapped anyone. Until a short while ago, they did not even attack political authorities but only killed peasants. "They need to frighten the people, subjugate them, like any sect with redemptionist pretensions. They

consider us--the IU-- as 'accomplices to the reactionaries.' They have a /Pol Pot/ concept of the world. (Pol Pot, the guerrilla and /Khmer/ Red government leader, is considered responsible for the genocide perpetrated against the Cambodian people between 1975 and 1978 when it is estimated that 3 million people died.) The elect, the redeemers, are merely a handful; the rest must be punished."

Born at the beginning of the 1970's from the umpteenth schism of the Peruvian Communist Party founded by Jose Carlos Mariategui, Sendero Luminoso considers the 1968 Chinese cultural revolution the "most important ideological, sociological, political and cultural phenomenon of the 20th century." Its members lead a Spartan life with military discipline; its ideology is messianic and intransigent. They ignore the /bourgeois press/. In 2-1/2 long years of armed struggle, they have only published one pamphlet entitled "To develop the guerrilla war." They state: "The party has a thousand eyes and a thousand ears." Big Brother also watches the Andean villages.

In El Fronton jail, a little island on the Pacific coast facing the port of Callao, Senderista prisoners do daily calisthenics and military exercises and cheer for Mao Zedong and the armed struggle. Their cells are decorated with portraits of the Chinese /great helmsman/ and their Peruvian leader, Abimael Guzman. The democratic restoration in 1980, which coincided with the beginning of the guerrilla, permits them the /status/ of political prisoners which was unthinkable during the years of the military dictatorship or in their lauded ideological /land of promise/.

"Red is light" is another slogan used by the Senderistas. Their top leader, Abimael Guzman, is a mysterious person who does not give interviews and has lived at an unknown address for 10 years. At that time, he decided to leave the University of San Cristobal in Huamanga where he was a sociology professor and undertake the /shining path/ of the Maoist revolution. There are rumors that the 52-year-old Guzman has a serious kidney disease and needs daily dialysis. According to some, /comrade Gonzalo/, his nom de guerre, directs operations from Ayacucho while others believe he is hospitalized abroad.

In a mystical speech to the plenum of the central committee of his organization, Guzman announced the principle of armed struggle which formally began on 18 May 1980 when his men burned the ballot boxes in a town in Cangallo Province, Ayacucho Department. It was the day the first democratic elections were held in Peru after 12 years of military government. The Senderistas, followers of the idea expressed by Mariategui in the semifeudal Peru of the 1930's, believe that the /Chinese model/ is the only valid way to make a revolution.

Training Abroad

The former prime minister of Peru, Manuel Ulloa, who resigned some weeks ago spoke to EL PAIS from his house in Lima. He said that the Sendero Luminoso activists have been trained in Cuba, Czechoslovakia and the GDR. "We do not have proof that they are receiving aid from abroad but they could be connected to the same interests that encourage terrorism in Spain, Italy, Ireland or the FRG."

Ulloa indicated that the Senderistas chose Ayacucho Department to begin the armed struggle because it is "one of the poorest in Peru with rough terrain, alcoholism and bad living conditions." The former prime minister recognized that the messianic doctrines of Abimael Guzman have penetrated the university and partially blames the Peruvian educational system for this.

The response of the government led by Manuel Ulloa was, in his opinion, prudent. "We declined massive repression and our armed forces, aware of what happened in Argentina or Central America, do not want to intervene. It is a slow process. I understand that the public is impatient but it must be remembered that the police were practically destroyed under the dictatorship."

Things have changed for the better, according to the former Peruvian prime minister. "The police have been given training and modern equipment and we are already in the offensive phase. We felt obliged to call in the armed forces but only to control and limit access routes. That has permitted the Civil Guard and the police to take the initiative. We know that this phenomenon is not going to be destroyed from one day to the next."

Concerning the age-old poverty of Ayacucho Department, Manuel Ulloa alleged that his government has made large investments there to open roads and build schools.

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CSO: 3348/244

PEASANT LEADER DENOUNCES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PY192256 Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, 18 Mar (AFP)--Pastor Anaya Cuadros, leader of the peasant confederation of Peru, who was arrested and then released after having been adopted by amnesty international, has made a very strong charge about the violations of human rights in Peru, "which are getting more serious every day," he said.

During the course of a press conference at the headquarters of the French Department of Amnesty International, Anaya Cuadros, who is the leader of the Jicamarca peasant community, which is located close to Lima, denounced the inhuman and anti-democratic policy of the Peruvian Government. That policy relies on decree 46, which deals with terrorism, to justify its repression against every sector.

Anaya Cuadros referred in particular to the repression carried out against his community, which is "the third largest in size. Its lands are very much coveted because they are close to Lima. Those who have the intention of taking the land away from the peasants resort to the use of thugs." In this regard Anaya Cuadros referred to a person nicknamed Bufalo Pacheco, who was hired in Mexico and by Somoza in Nicaragua.

After the invasion of Jicamarca by police forces during February 1982, the authorities, always according to Anaya Cuadros, mounted a press conference in order to get the peasants to believe that the community was a terrorist base. The courts could not prove this and therefore, all those who were arrested on that occasion were released, with the exception of Anaya Cuadros himself.

The peasant leader asked how it is possible that a government that calls itself democratic can permit torture? Anaya Cuadros states that he is not a member of any party. He says he was held in a basement for 1 month before being transferred to El Fronton Penitentiary, where he was subject to various types of brutality.

El Fronton Penitentiary, located on an island close to Lima, was closed down by General Velasco Alvarado's government, but it was reopened by President Fernando Belaunde Terry's constitutional government.

Anaya Cuadros was adopted by an amnesty group in Austria. This group carried out the negotiations for his release, which was achieved after 10 months of detention.

The international humanitarian organization, which fights against the violation of human rights throughout the world and for the right to free thought and opinion, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.

CSO: 3348/272

BRIEFS

DETECTIVE CONVICTED--Capt (Victor Alvestres), a member of the Peruvian Police Detective Department, has been sentenced to 3 years in prison for murdering (Teofilo Miranda), a nuclear physicist. The courts have decided that Captain (Alvestres) will also have to pay a fine. [Text] [PA150410 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 3 Mar 83]

TERRORISTS TAKE OVER RADIO STATION--Lima, 20 Mar (AFP)--An eight-member terrorist commando took over the Diocesan radio station Onda Azul, in Puno, 1,300 KM southeast of Lime, to broadcast antigovernment slogans and to call for an armed struggle. Meanwhile, police forces have unleashed a psychological war against the shining path organization. The takeover of Puno's Catholic Station, which took place early on Saturday, was carried out by six men and two women--all of them masked--who, after overpowering the operator, broadcast antigovernment slogans and called for an armed struggle. Violent acts by the pro-Maoist Shining Path Organization have declined in recent days as a result of a vast police operation confering strategic points of the city, roads, bridges and several villages. It has been reported that the rebels have moved toward more distant areas of the Peruvian Andean region to regroup. For their part, authorities continue to state that the terrorist groups have been annihilated, or at least held back due to police efficiency. The zone emergency command also launched an intensive psychological war by dropping leaflets with drawings and slogans unfavorable to the terrorists from helicopters over-flying rural areas. [Text] [PY212032 Paris AFP in Spanish 1847 GMT 20 Mar 83]

CSO: 3348/272

PLAN TO REORGANIZE TUPAMARO MOVEMENT CITED IN ITALIAN PRESS

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Rome (AP)--The Tupamaros, a leftist guerrilla movement broken up in Uruguay a decade ago, are reportedly planning to reappear in that country following a wide-ranging program of propaganda in Europe, according to news reports.

The reports say that the 26 March Independents Movement, the Tupamaro political arm formally set up in Paris in February 1981, has intensified its activities among Uruguayan exiles and within the opposition to the government of Gen Gregorio Alvarez.

"The military group itself -- that is, the National Liberation Movement (MNL), whose members are languishing in maximum security prisons in Uruguay, has not yet gone into action," says Rome daily IL MESSAGGERO.

"However, it could do so at any time by instigating a new round in the tormented recent history of the former South American Switzerland," adds the article, signed by the daily's Latin American expert, Pino Cimo.

Cimo maintains that the reappearance of the Tupamaros "significantly coincides with the intensified activity of the Sendero Luminoso [Luminous Path] Trotskyite guerrillas in Peru, the first, however modest, advances of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in Chile, the outbreak of guerrilla warfare in Honduras, Costa Rica and other countries in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as in Haiti."

According to the article, following the congress for the new founding of the 26 March Independent Movement, Juan Jose Mena was elected president and two regional directorates were set up, one in Malmo, Sweden, and another in Mexico.

It states that in Italy, there is a "compact but extremely active group with headquarters in Genoa."

The article contains no precise data on the recent growth of the movement. However, it states that judging by the regularity of pamphlets published by the 26 March Movement, one can assume that hundreds of young Uruguayans, whether former members of the Tupamaro group or sympathizers of the guerrilla movement of the 1960's, are working full time for the movement."

As its political strategy, the 26 March Independent Movement has adopted the old line of an organic alliance with all leftist forces, Cimo states.

"That is how it defines itself and already last year, its leaders requested -- and succeeding in obtaining -- reintegration into the Broad Front, a leftist political coalition headed by former presidential candidate Liber Seregni, who was once a general in the army and who was imprisoned in Uruguay 10 years ago.

From the publications of the movement and the speeches of its leaders, Cimo observes, "it is obvious that its political objective is to resume the armed struggle and that its heroes continue to be Raul Sendic and other Tupamaros now in prison."

In a speech recently transcribed by the committee of relatives of Uruguay political prisoners, Juan Jose Mena says: "We shall continue the fight begun by Sendic; we shall not rest for even one minute."

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CSO: 3348/248

FAVORABLE IMPACT OF OIL PRICE DECLINE DISCUSSED

Balance of Payments to Improve

Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] The drop in the international price of oil will have beneficial effects on our country, LA MANANA has been told by a number of economists involved in the country's economic and financial affairs. It was also stated that the impact of the reduction will depend on the term of contracts already fulfilled and that there could be a new rate policy.

It was unanimously felt that the drop will be beneficial to Uruguay, because it is a country forced to import oil. The following are some of the opinions gathered in a poll conducted yesterday:

Luis Faroppa

When asked about the effect which the drop in the international price of oil might have on our country, Faroppa replied:

"What the drop in the international price of oil will represent for Uruguay must be analyzed in the light of certain conditioning factors. In other words, before speaking of the effects, we shall have to see when the contracts signed by the country come to their conclusion and what official policy will be followed subsequently.

"Until the contracts already signed by Uruguay are concluded," Faroppa explained, "the reduction in the price of oil will have no effect on Uruguay.

"Once those contracts have been fulfilled and purchases are made at the new price, then there will be favorable effects because the price will mean a major savings in foreign exchange and a substantial drop in our imports.

"In order to see whether the price drop will be reflected in the domestic price of fuel, we shall have to see what official policy is adopted."

He was then asked what effects the reduction will have on oil-producing nations and he answered as follows:

"It is obvious that for them, the problem is much more difficult. The positions adopted by exporters have caused splits between them and it is logical that it should be so because the position of Saudi Arabia is not the same as that of Mexico or Venezuela, for example.

"The new price implies reduced revenue for the same production, which implies basic changes in the financial systems of producer nations.

"Some will even be forced to use resources they had in third countries, which may even cause difficulties for some financial systems.

"We shall probably not see any crisis, but in anticipation of such a possibility, practically all assistance and loans to countries goes through the IMF and the IMF has increased membership quotas and built up special funds.

"Specifically with reference to Uruguay, the price reduction is totally favorable and if it results in a lower domestic price on fuel, it would be very good for the country," he concluded.

Jorge Ponasso

Jorge Ponasso had opinions similar to those of Faroppa concerning the effect of the lower oil price on Uruguay.

"For our country," he said, "as an oil importing nation, a drop such as the one approved by producers will be favorable because it will mean great relief for our balance of payments.

"Obviously, for exporters the situation will be precisely the opposite.

"We are seeing a phenomenon similar to that of 1973, although this time it is the reverse and for producers, it will probably not have such grave effects as the previous crisis did on our countries because the drop is not as great as the increase was at that time."

When asked if the difficulties for the balance of payments of producers could alter the international financial system, Ponasso said:

"I do not believe it will mean a crack in the financial system but it will undoubtedly have its problems."

Ponasso immediately referred to our country in order to explain:

"In the medium- and long-range sense, the new oil price will undoubtedly be beneficial for Uruguay.

"However, in order for it to be reflected, we shall have to wait until the old contracts are fulfilled. The important thing is that this fact deserves reflection because oil is a nonrenewable resource and consequently, above and beyond prices, we must emphasize the need to seek new energy sources.

"The world's oil reserves are dwindling daily, meaning that we have to try to find new energy sources guaranteeing that the world will continue to have energy and eliminating the risk implied by the disappearance of the most widely used fuel."

Ubaldo Alario

In response to our query, Ubaldo Alario said:

"The drop in the international price of oil will without any doubt be beneficial to Uruguay.

"Those who will be affected most are the multinational companies, but the topic is a complex one and I intend to analyze it in the next issue of 'Sintesis'."

Less Money for Crude

Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Unlike the situation in 1973, the new circumstances affecting oil-producing nations will definitely help Uruguay, which this year will save some \$16.5 million on one-fourth of its annual consumption of crude it buys from Nigeria.

The drop in the amount of foreign exchange paid for oil will certainly continue as the remaining oil producers in the world follow the trend.

The National Fuels, Alcohol and Cement Administration (ANCAP) is closely following information that has emerged in the past few hours concerning oil, but to date, there has been no official communication from Nigeria concerning reduced prices for crude exports, based on information gathered last evening by LA MANANA.

It is thought that official confirmation of the Nigerian price reduction, on the order of \$5.50 a barrel, will be received by the end of the month.

Purchases From Nigeria

Last year, our country bought approximately 25 percent of the 12 million barrels used from Nigeria, costing some \$400 million.

Consequently, if the same trend should continue, Uruguay would save some \$16.5 million from the drop in price on Nigerian oil alone.

Suppliers

However, it is highly likely that this savings, or lower outlays for oil purchases, will continue to spread as all the oil-producing countries lower their prices.

In fact, the Arab Emirates will reportedly adopt a measure similar to that followed by Nigeria and by England and Norway recently. Consequently, it is thought that other nations will be forced to lower prices, including other supplies such as Iran, Mexico and Venezuela.

Finally, it is important to note, when speculating about current prospects on the oil market, that the savings in foreign exchange could amount to some \$66 million a year, if the price reduction becomes widespread.

11,464
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GAU LEADER URGES UNIFIED ACTION BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 50, 10 Dec 82 p 73

[Report on interview with Ricardo Vilaro, Uruguayan leader, by Mario G. del Cueto: "Unity of Action by All Opposition Forces"]

[Text] Ricardo Vilaro, Uruguayan revolutionary leader, one of the leaders of the GAU [Groups for Unified Action] and a member of the board of the Broad Front Abroad, stopped over briefly in Havana on his way back to Europe after a CPUSTAL [Latin American Workers Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity] meeting in Managua. Although Vilaro met with BOHEMIA a few days before the internal elections of the political parties were held in his country, the interview confirmed the overwhelming victory of the opposition to the dictatorship and outlined the path that the opposition forces must follow in their fight against the regime of oppression established by the military.

After stating that the Uruguayan people's fight for freedom and democracy is inscribed within the context of the Latin American situation based on the physiognomy of each of the Latin American countries, Vilaro stated: "We are in a continent in revolution, a historic period of transition from capitalism to socialism." "Imperialism does not have solutions for the structural crisis that affects our peoples. Therefore, the fight in Uruguay demands the creation of a liberation front, a social and political force capable of overthrowing the dictatorship and going further, imposing a democratic and popular alternative."

To the GAU leader, the results of the economic crisis, the submission to the multinational enterprises and the destruction of the representative democratic system are visible: 9-1/2 years of systematic repression, terror, intimidation; jails filled with members, the best sons of the people; murders, missing people and many exiles.

He continued: "In November 1980, the people said 'no' to the dictatorship and its economic policy through their blank votes and new conditions of struggle developed in the country. The people measured their strength, the opposition gained confidence and, by conquering fear, won room for political action and independence....Different social sectors including the agricultural-livestock, industrial and commercial sectors have joined the opposition to the economic policy because they have been victims of it. It is no longer just the workers who have paid for this policy with their sweat and who fight for freedom and democracy."



How does he evaluate the present situation?

"We, as the Broad Front, respect all the currents, all the political and opposition forces. We demand conditions for the exercise and democratic practice of all political parties without exception. We identify with Artigas and his transforming and liberating ideas. The elections will be a positive and important event for us in spite of being inscribed within the government's institutionalization plan. Its results have to be viewed--like the plebiscite that said 'no' to the dictatorship--as an accumulative and differentiating phenomenon of the forces in play. We will demonstrate that the people are willing to travel every road to win a different country....The blank vote fulfilled the basic service of politicizing the action, increasing the content of the election and expressing an opinion that is important today and will be important in the coming stages, 1983 and 1984. It will strengthen the necessary merger of all opposition in the coming stages, forcing it to overflow the narrow authoritarian channel decreed by the regime."

Vilaro indicated that Liber Seregni, general of the people and president of the Broad Front, referred clearly to the situation from jail, a brave and bold position:

"In short, Seregni presented the problem of unity, a unity that must be a unity of action with a practical plan, a common tactical plan, and under a common leadership respected by all. The problem of unity today, in the fight against the dictatorship, is an essential topic, a definitive topic, and the basic condition for the Broad Front to expand, accumulate more forces, facilitate the process of struggle as it develops and consolidates and facilitate the unity of the revolutionary detachments within it. We have a common responsibility here."

Election Results

Although the official figures of the election of Sunday, 26 November, had not been made public when BOHEMIA went to press, the known figures firmly and irreversibly established the results of the election--the overwhelming defeat of the Uruguayan military regime.

Of a total of 2,080,243 qualified voters, 1,259,320 voted--that is, 60.53 percent. Of that total, 46.42 percent voted for the Blanco Party and 500,217

(39.72 percent) voted for the Colorado Party. Within the Blanco Party, the Rocha Movement and Movement for the Fatherland which correspond to the group led by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate in exile in London received 337,707 votes, about 75 percent.

In the Colorado Party, Julio Sanguinetti received 228,020 votes (38.8 percent), Jorge Pacheco Areco, the military favorite, won 143,258 (27.32 percent) and the so-called Civic Union, a government group, received only 14,244 votes. The blank vote, symbol of the Broad Front, accounted for 83,515 votes or 6.6 percent despite the persecution unleashed by the dictatorship. The electoral result--another resounding "no" to the maneuvers of the regime--will be a great popular victory.

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